Australian Bureau of Statistics

1307.6 - Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators, Mar 2009

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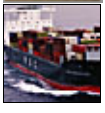
Summary

Contents

CONTENTS



health occupations, Immunisation, Private health insurance, Prescribed medications, Mental health

Environment

31/10/08| Includes: **Climate, Temperature, Rainfall, Water, Sea level, Sea temperature, Fisheries production, Agricultural impact of climate change, Natural resource management, Energy consumption, Greenhouse gas emissions**

Feature Article

30/04/09| **: What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate?** A discussion of the key aspects of statistical literacy and why it is so important in a modern society. Includes examples of what to look out for when interpreting statistical information, and lists some of the more common pitfalls and how to avoid them.

In This Issue

IN THIS ISSUE

Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1307.6) provides a summary of Tasmanian statistical information and is released on a quarterly basis. Topics this issue: **Family and Community**, **Household Economic Resources**, **and Housing and Construction**; plus a feature article: **What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate?** The **Population, Education and Transport** topics will be updated for the next release in July 2009.

Explanatory Notes are not included in the form found in other ABS publications. Please see the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications (links to source documents are provided in the summary tables).

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the ABS on 1300 135 070 or email client.services@abs.gov.au.

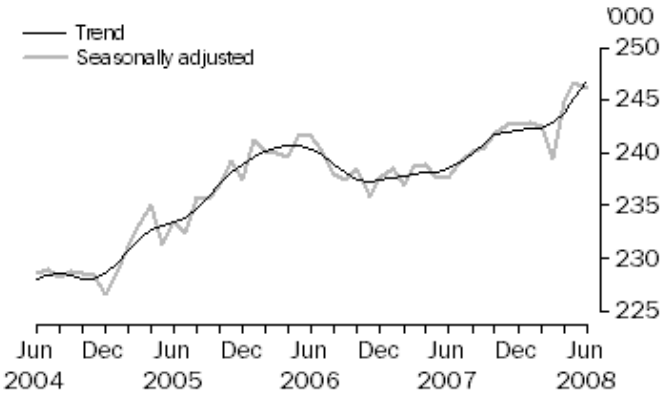
If you have any comments or feedback about this product please email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Labour

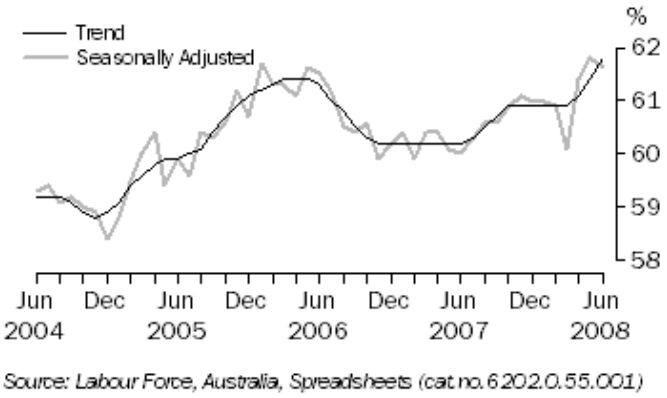
LABOUR

The annual average size of the labour force in Tasmania in 2007-08 was 242,600, increasing 2.0% from 2006-07. The annual average participation rate also increased from 60.3% in 2006-07 to 61.0% in 2007-08.

LABOUR FORCE, Tasmania



PARTICIPATION RATE, Tasmania



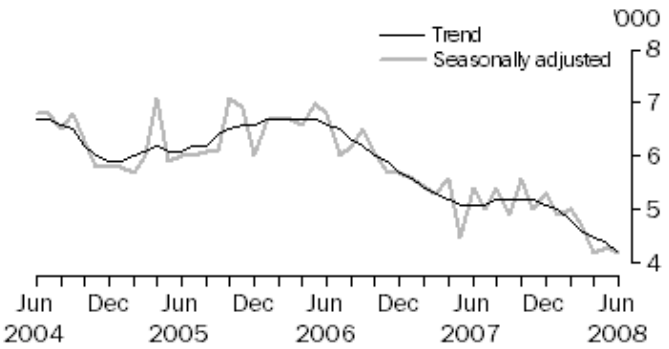
Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat no. 6202.0.55.001)

The average number of people employed continued to grow, increasing 2.8% from 2006-07 to 2007-08. The average number of people in full-time work also continued to increase, reaching 158,600 in 2007-08.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Tasmania

Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets (cat.no.6202.0.55.001)

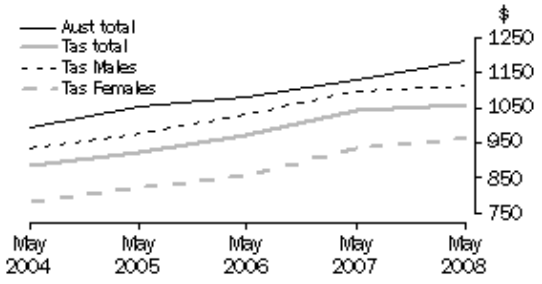
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, Tasmania



Source: Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets (cat.no.6202.0.55.001)

Tasmania's trend unemployment rate fell to an historically low level of 4.2% in June 2008. The Australian unemployment rate reached 4.2% at the same time. This was the lowest level of unemployment recorded for Tasmania since the current series began in 1978.

AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL EARNINGS, Full-time adults: trend

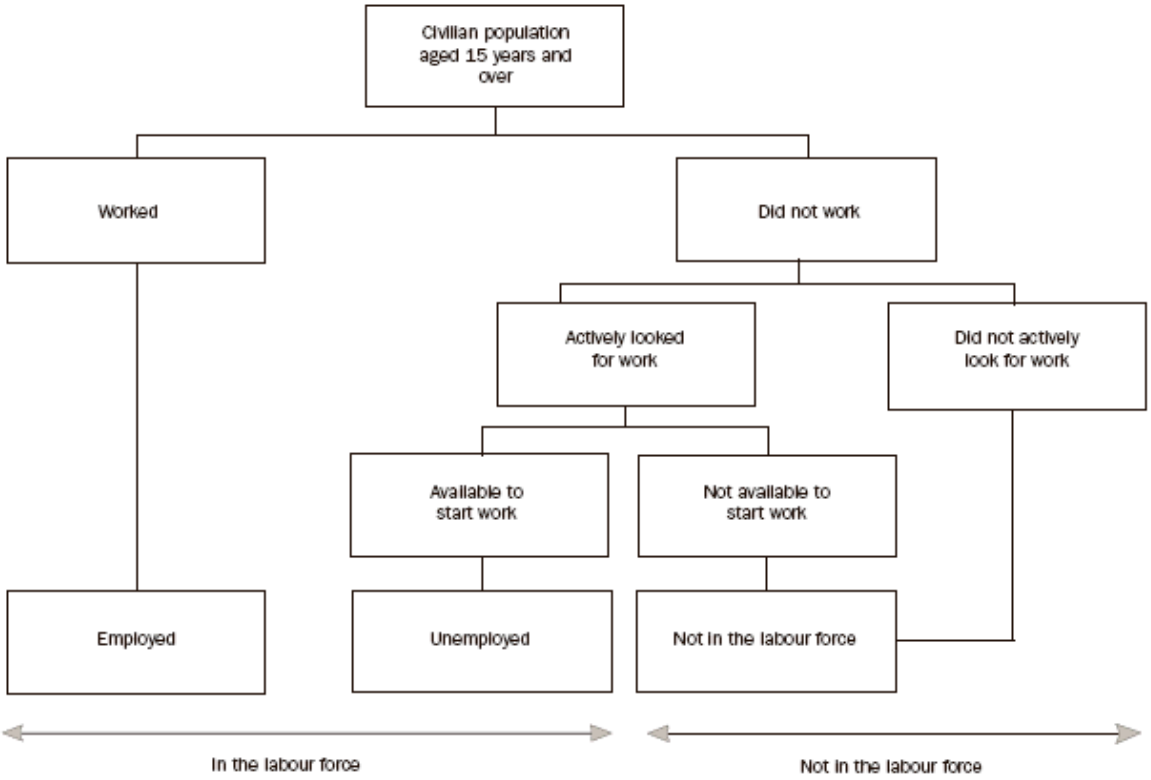


Source: Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat.no. 6302.0)

In May 2008, the average weekly ordinary time earnings (ie no overtime earnings) figure for full

time adults in Tasmania was $1,017.90, an increase of 2.0% on the May 2007 figure. In May 2008, the average weekly ordinary time earnings figure for full-time employed Tasmanian males was $1,054.80, and for females was $947.50. The Australian average weekly ordinary time earnings figure for full-time employed adults in May 2008 was $1,131.50.

Australian labour force framework(a)



(a) This diagram provides a simple overview. The detailed rules for determining whether a person is classified as employed, unemployed or not in the labour force are outlined in 'Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods' (6102.0.55.001).

Source: Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (6102.0.55.001).

The concepts and definitions underlying Australian labour statistics are based on the conventions, recommendations and guidelines developed and maintained by the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Statistical Office. Australian labour statistics comply in almost every respect with these international standards. Labour force figures are derived from the Labour Force Survey component of the Monthly Population Survey. The Labour Force Survey includes all persons aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

SOURCES

Australian Labour Market Statistics (ABS cat. no. 6105.0)

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6302.0)

Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6361.0)

Forms of Employment, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6359.0)

Job Vacancies, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6354.0)

Labour Force, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6202.0)

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Monthly (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.001)

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Labour Mobility, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6209.0)

Labour Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6345.0)

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (ABS cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6220.0)

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5673.0)

Tasmanian Key Indicators (ABS cat.no. 1304.6)

Underemployed Workers, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6265.0)

Further information can also be found on the Labour Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Economic Activity

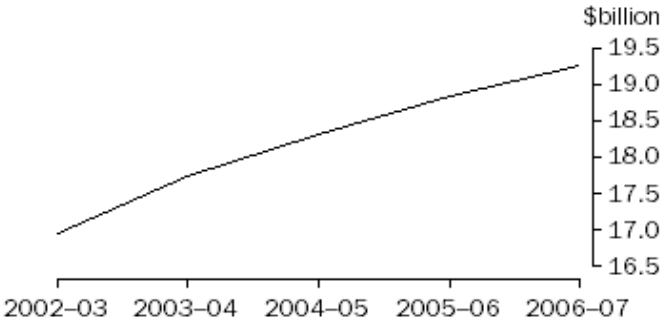
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

GROSS STATE PRODUCT (GSP)

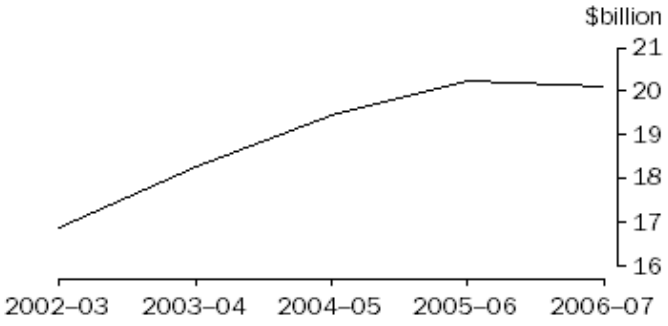
Tasmania's Gross State Product (GSP) reached $19,239 million in 2006-07, an increase of $397 million or 2.1% from the 2005-06 figure of $18,842 million. In 2006-07, household final consumption expenditure was the largest component of total GSP, contributing $11,752 million (61.1%). At the same time, government final consumption expenditure accounted for $4,385 million (22.8%) of GSP. State final demand in 2006-07 decreased by 0.7% on the 2005-06 estimate of $20,239 million.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT, Tasmania (chain volume measures)

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Tasmania (chain volume measures)



Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0)

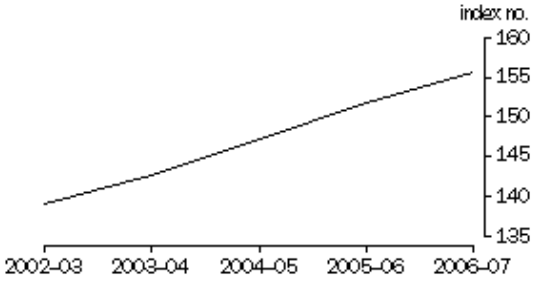


Source: Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (cat. no. 5220.0)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

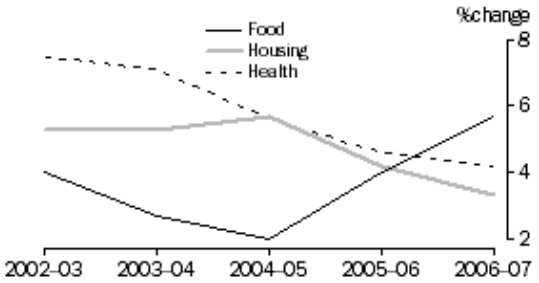
In 2006-07 the all groups CPI in Hobart increased by 2.5% from 2005-06. Rises in food prices (5.7%), health (4.2%) and housing (3.4%) were the main contributors to this change.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (all groups), Hobart



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (selected groups), Hobart

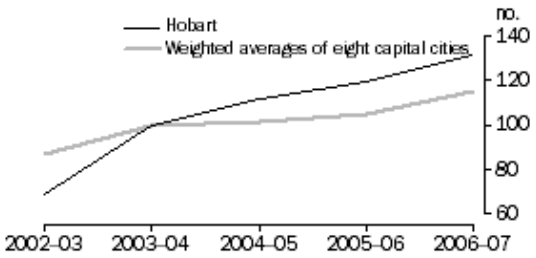


Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

HOUSE PRICE INDEX

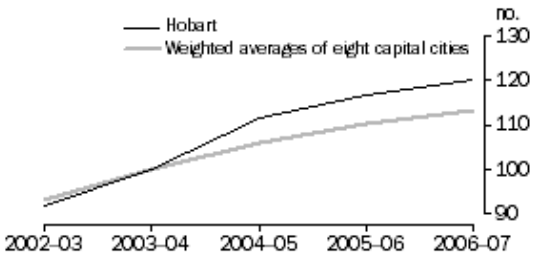
The price index for established houses in Hobart in 2006-07 increased 10.0% compared to 9.1% nationally. At the same time the price index for project homes in Hobart increased 3.0% compared to 2.7% nationally.

HOUSE PRICE INDEX (established homes), Hobart



Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

HOUSE PRICE INDEX (project homes), Hobart



Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

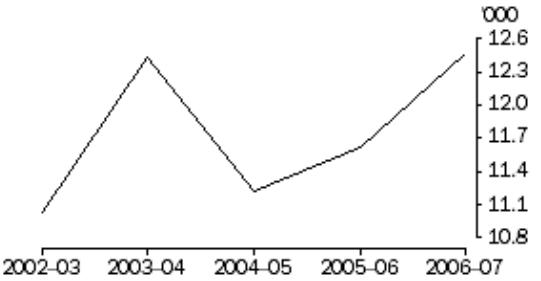
The number of first home buyers' houses (owner occupied) financed in Tasmania in 2006-07

decreased by 6.6% from the 2005-06 estimate of 2,200. At the same time non-first home buyers' dwellings (owner occupier) financed increased by 7.3%.

FIRST HOME BUYERS (Tasmania), Number of Dwellings Financed

Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0)

NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS (Tasmania), Number of Dwellings Financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no.5609.0)

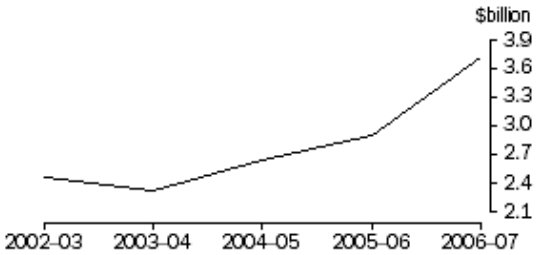
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

In 2006-07 the value of Tasmanian goods exported overseas was $3,712.2 million, an increase of 28.3% from 2005-06. At the same time, the value of goods imported directly into Tasmania was $614.4 million, which represents an increase of 19.0% from 2005-06.

In 2006-07 the major Tasmanian export destination was Japan, buying $626.8 million worth of Tasmanian goods or 12.9% more than in 2005-06. Tasmania's major source of imports in 2006-07 was the United States of America, dispatching goods worth $78.7 million to the Tasmanian market.

Zinc was the major single export commodity in 2006-07, contributing $1,098.4 million or 29.6% to total Tasmanian exports. Also in 2006-07, power generating machinery and equipment was the highest value imported commodity representing $82.0 million or 13.3% of total imports.

VALUE OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, Tasmania



Value: free on board (f.o.b.)

Source: ABS data available on request, International trade

VALUE OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTS, Tasmania

Value: customs value

Source: ABS data available on request, International trade

SOURCES

Australian Industry (ABS cat. no. 8155.0)

Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (ABS cat. no. 5220.0)

Consumer Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6401.0)

Housing Finance, Australia (ABS cat. no.5609.0)

House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities (ABS cat. no. 6416.0)

Labour Price Index, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6345.0)

Lending Finance, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5671.0)

Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (ABS cat. no. 5625.0)

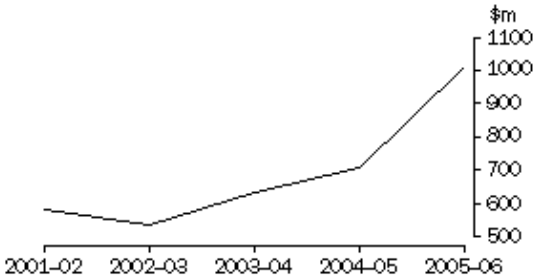
Industry

INDUSTRY

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
In 2005-06 the preliminary estimate of the gross value of agricultural commodities in Tasmania was $934.4 million. The largest contributors were whole milk ($209.1 million), slaughtering and other disposals of cattle and calves ($178.8 million) and vegetables ($166.0 million).

MINING
Mineral production in Tasmania increased in value by 75.2% over the five year period 2001-02 to 2005-06. In 2005-06 total mineral commodities were worth $1,011.0 million compared to $577.0 million in 2001-02. In the previous twelve months, mineral production increased by 43.2%, up from $706.0 million. The most substantial increase was in metallic mineral production, which reported a 47.0% increase from the previous year, increasing from $634.0 million in 2004-05 to $932.0 million in 2005-06.

TOTAL MINERAL PRODUCTION

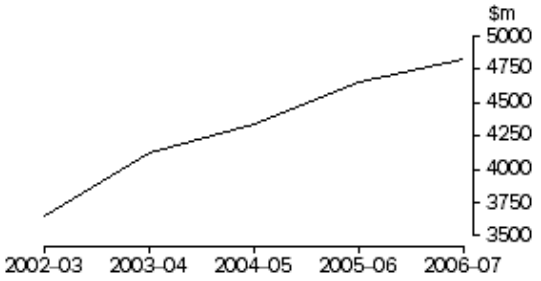


Source: Mining Operations, Australia (cat no. 8415.0)

RETAIL TURNOVER

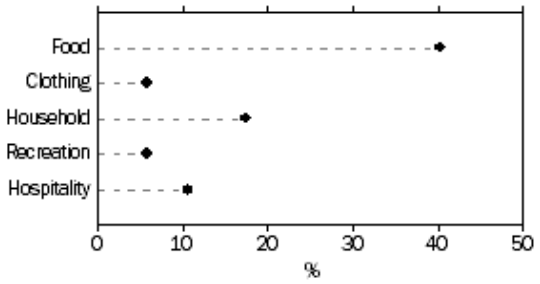
In 2006-07, the value of retail turnover in Tasmania was $4,828.3 million. This represented an increase of 3.6% from the previous year, and an increase of 32.4% over the last 5 years. Food retailing industry contributed $1,945.9 million of the total value of retail turnover (40.3%), followed by household good retailing $840.2 million (17.4%) and hospitality and service industries $510.4 million (10.6%).

RETAIL TURNOVER, Tasmania



Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

RETAIL TURNOVER, Tasmania (percentage contribution)

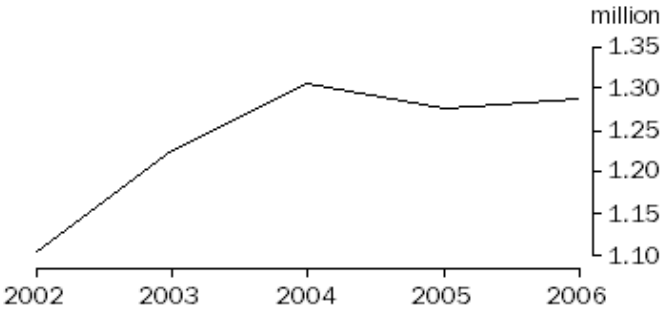


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Guest arrivals peaked in 2004 with 1.3 million persons, and have remained relatively stable ever since. Takings from accommodation establishments have increased 45.9% over the 5 year period 2002 to 2006. In 2006, takings were $170.8 million, compared to $117.1 million in 2002, with the average taking per room per night $124.80 in 2006 compared to $100.37 in 2002.

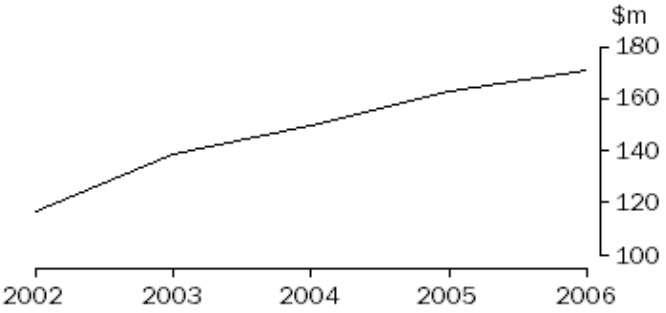
GUEST ARRIVALS, Tasmania



Note: Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments with 15 or more rooms.

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0)

TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION, Tasmania



Note: Hotels, Motels and Serviced Apartments with 15 or more rooms.

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0)

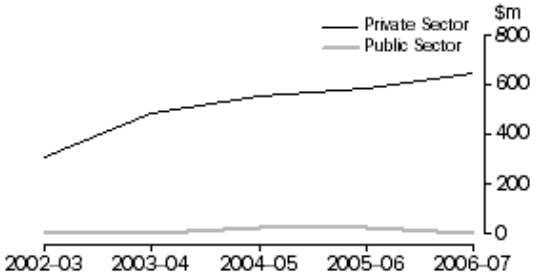
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

In 2006-07, the number of dwelling units approved for construction recorded an increase for the first time in three years. Total approvals numbered 2,848, an increase of 8.2% from the 2005-06 total of 2,633. This increase was mostly in new house approvals which were up by 10.1% (2,507) from the 2005-06 figure of 2,276.

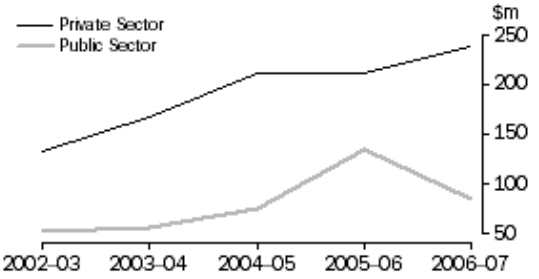
The private sector accounted for over 90.0% of the value of all building work done in 2006-07. Over half of this was from residential building of new houses. Less than 2.0% of the value of public sector residential building was invested in new houses.

VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, Tasmania Residential

VALUE OF BUILDING WORK DONE, Tasmania Non-residential



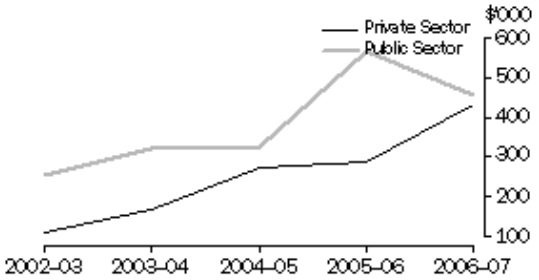
Source: Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0)



Source: Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0)

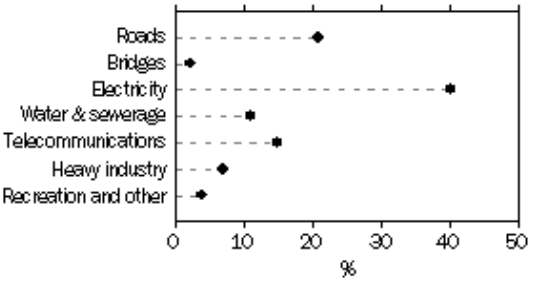
The total value of engineering construction work done in Tasmania in 2006-07 was $885.8 million, an increase of 3.7% from the previous year. In 2006-07, 48.7% of all engineering construction work was carried out by the private sector ($431.4 million). Electricity generation, transmission and pipelines represented 40.1% of the total value of engineering construction work (38.1% of the private sector and 41.9% of the public sector) followed by roads, highways and subdivisions 20.9% (10.0% of the private sector and 31.1% of the public sector) and telecommunications 14.9% (24.4% of the private sector and 5.8% of the public sector). Heavy industry accounted for only 7% of the total value of engineering construction work done in Tasmania in 2006-07.

VALUE OF ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Tasmania



Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat.no. 8762.0)

VALUE OF ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Tasmania (percentage contribution)



Source: Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0)

RATEABLE LAND USE

As at November 2007, the total rateable land use area in Tasmania was 4,164,353 hectares (ha). Primary production accounted for 3,678,107 ha or 88.3% of this land, 193,957 ha was residential (4.7%), 123,082 ha was used for sporting facilities and recreation (3.0%) and 100,989 ha was vacant land (2.4%). Industrial land accounted for only 0.2% of the total rateable land use area. (Source: Information and Land Services, DPIW)

BUSINESS COUNTS

At June 2006 there were 15,012 (41.0%) employing and 21,582 (59.0%) non-employing businesses operating in Tasmania. The majority of employing businesses, 8,088 (53.9%) employed less than four employees with 5,058 (33.7%) businesses employing 5 to 19 employees. 1,266 businesses (8.4%) employed 20 to 49 employees while only 600 businesses (4.0%) had 50 or more employees.

SOURCES

Building Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8752.0)

Building Approvals, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8731.0)

Counts of Australian Businesses, including entries and exits June 2003 - June 2006 (ABS cat. no. 8165.0)

Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8762.0)

Manufacturing Industry, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8221.0)

Mining Operations, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8415.0)

Retail Trade, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8501.0)

Tourist Accommodation, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8635.0)

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (ABS cat. no. 7503.0)

Value of Selected Agricultural Commodities Produced (ABS cat. no. 7502.0)

Population

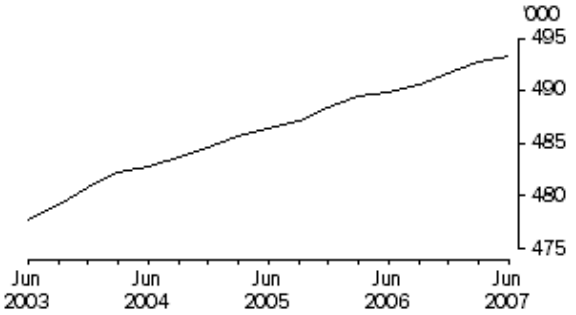
POPULATION

POPULATION CHANGE (a)

In the year to June 2007, Tasmania's population grew by 3,400 to a total of 493,300 people. This growth must be considered in the context of Tasmania's historical pattern of population change and the nature of Tasmania's components of population change. The components of population change are natural increase, interstate migration and overseas migration. In Tasmania, natural increase is the main source of population growth, while net interstate migration is usually the main source of population loss.

After experiencing population decline between 1996 and 2000 due to large interstate migration losses, Tasmania did not exceed its 1996 population until June 2003. The net growth experienced between June 2002 and 2004, seen in the graph below, was due to higher than average levels of net interstate migration. Between June 2005 and 2007, net interstate migration returned to its longer term trend of net loss; however, Tasmania did not return to population decline. This was due to larger than average gains from net overseas migration and natural increase over that period.

TOTAL POPULATION, Tasmania

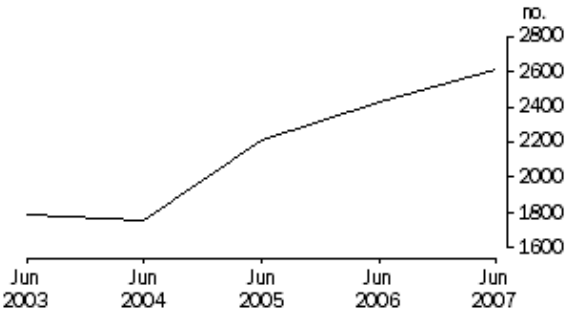


Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

NATURAL INCREASE (a)

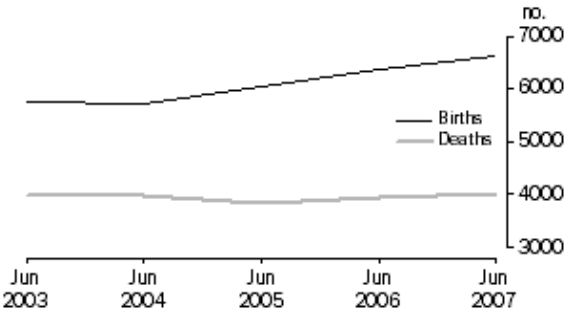
Natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) contributed 2,600 people to Tasmania's population growth of 3,400 people in the year to June 2007, and was therefore the main component of population change. The number of births per annum increased markedly from 2004 to 2007, from 5,800 to 6,600. The number of deaths over the 2003 to 2007 period remained relatively steady at around 4,000 deaths per annum.

NATURAL INCREASE, Tasmania



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

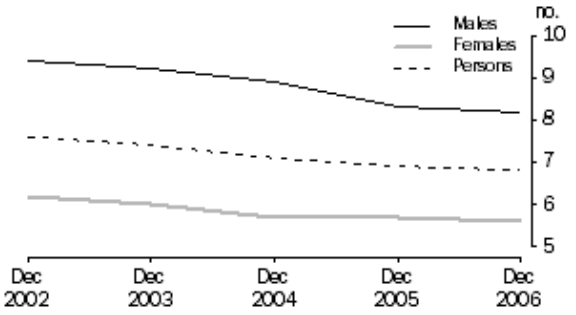
BIRTHS & DEATHS, Tasmania



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

At December 2006, Tasmania's standardised death rate was 6.8 deaths per 1,000 standard population. Even though Tasmania's population is ageing, the falling standardised death rate means Tasmanians are increasingly less likely to die at younger ages.

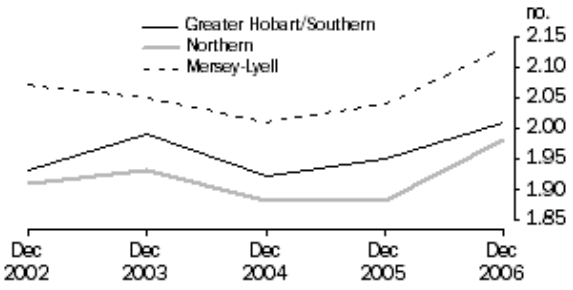
STANDARDISED DEATH RATE, Tasmania



Source: Deaths, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3302.0)

The total fertility rate (the number of babies a woman could expect to bear in her reproductive lifetime) varies by region within Tasmania. Mersey-Lyell Statistical Division (SD) had the highest fertility rate over the 2002 to 2006 period, reaching 2.13 babies per woman at December 2006, while the Northern SD had the lowest fertility rate (1.98).

TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(a), Statistical Divisions



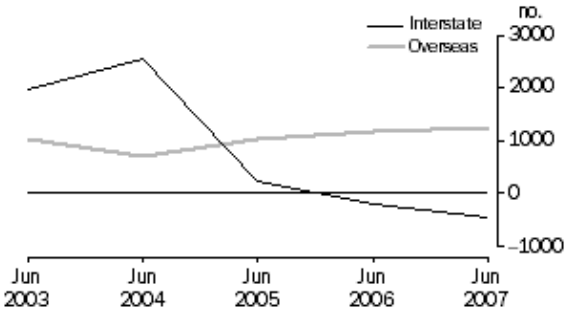
(a) Average total fertility rate for three years leading to reference year.

Source: Births, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3301.0)

NET MIGRATION (a)

Tasmania experiences a high flow of people to and from the State, with 12,300 people arriving and 12,800 departing in the year to June 2007, leading to a net loss of 450 people. This loss comes after a recent net migration high of 2,600 in the year to June 2004, coinciding with the peak of the housing boom. Tasmania attracts a low proportion of Australia's overseas migrants; however, we consistently receive a net gain. Over the 2005 to 2007 period, Tasmania gained more in net terms from overseas than from interstate migrants, with 1,300 overseas migrants arriving in the year to June 2007.

NET MIGRATION, Tasmania



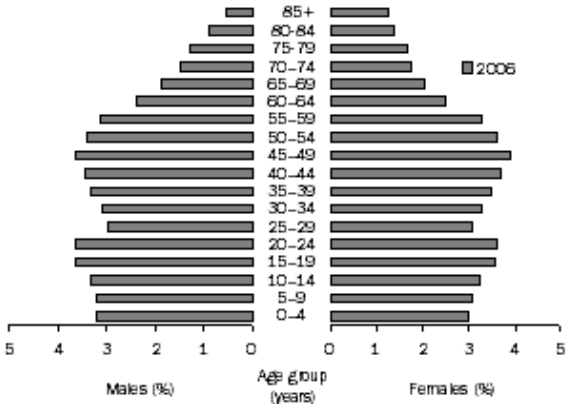
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, Jun 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0)

AGE STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION (a)

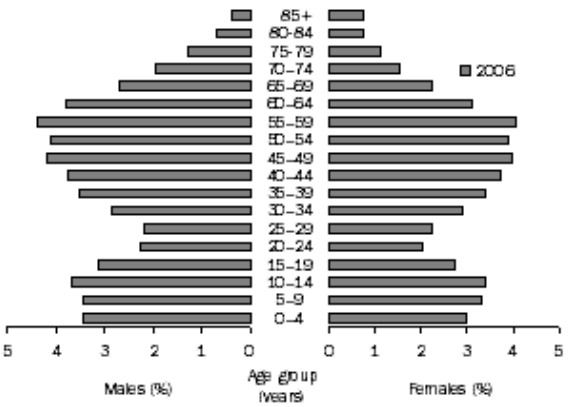
Tasmania's regions have different age structures which affect the current and future needs of the populations (as well as **reflecting** the current needs of the populations). The population pyramids below illustrate that Southern SD and Mersey-Lyell SD have low proportions of 20 to 29 year olds relative to the other age groups, while Greater Hobart SD has a relatively large proportion of 15 to 24 year olds. This affects where resources may be needed and may reflect the availability of tertiary education and employment opportunities.

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (%), Greater Hobart

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (%), Southern

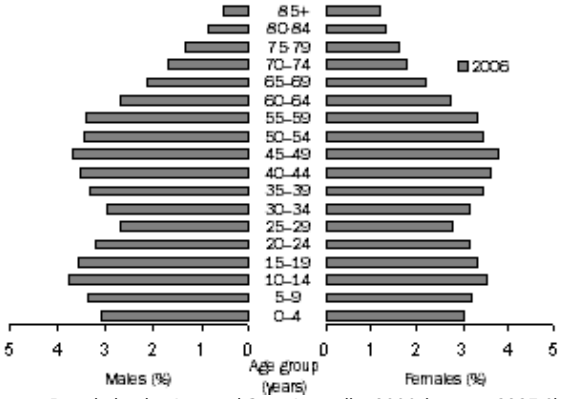


Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)



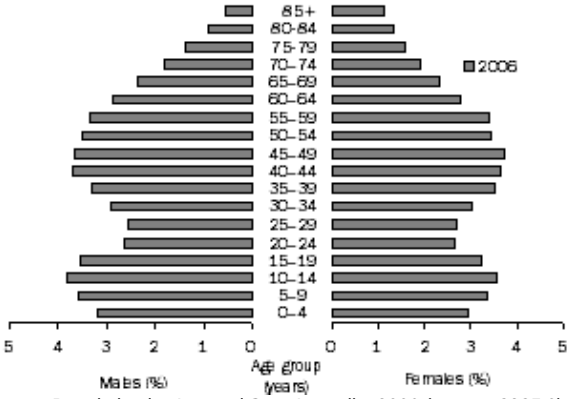
Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (%), Northern



Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (%), Mersey-Lyell



Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 3235.0)

Footnote: (a) Numbers in this section of commentary have been rounded, and will not exactly match those in the related spreadsheets.

SOURCES

Australian Demographic Statistics (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)

Births, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3301.0)

Deaths, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3302.0)

Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 1999 (ABS cat. no. 3228.0)

Family and Community

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

FAMILY COMPOSITION

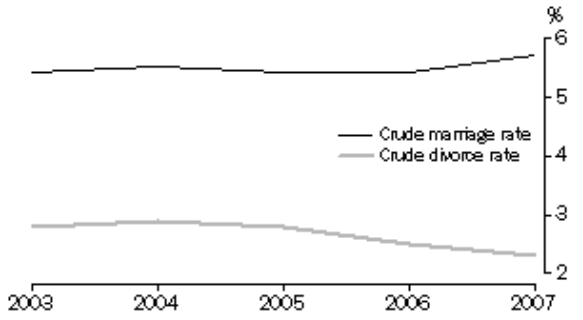
In 2006, there were 128,660 families recorded in Tasmania. Of these, couple families with no children accounted for 40.5%, couple families with children represented 41.4% and one parent families made up 16.7%. Most families with children, regardless of being couple families or one parent families, had children aged under 15 years. Other children in families were classified as non-dependent children (not full-time students and aged 15-24 years) or dependent students (full-time students and aged 15-24 years).

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES

The number of registered marriages in Tasmania has remained relatively steady over the last five years, with the crude marriage rate varying little (from 5.4% to 5.7%). Median age at marriage increased slightly from 31.8 years for males in 2003 to 32.6 years in 2007 and 29.7 years for females in 2003 to 30.0 years in 2007. Marriages involving cohabitation prior to marriage increased from 82.8% in 2003 to 85.0% in 2007.

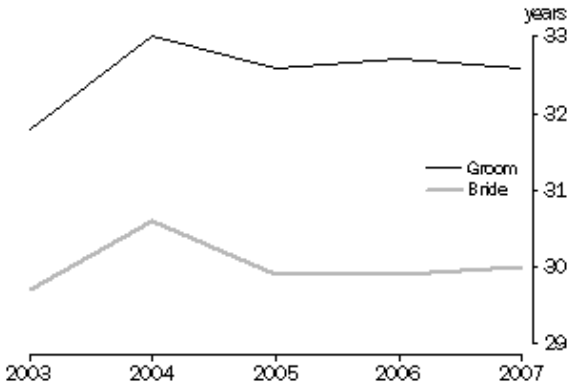
In 2007, over half of all divorces involved children. The crude divorce rate decreased slightly over the last five years, from 2.8% in 2003 to 2.3% in 2007. In 2007, the median duration of marriage prior to divorce was 13.8 years.

CRUDE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATES, Tasmania



Source: Marriages, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)
Divorces, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3307.0.55.001)

MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, Tasmania



Source: Marriages, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)

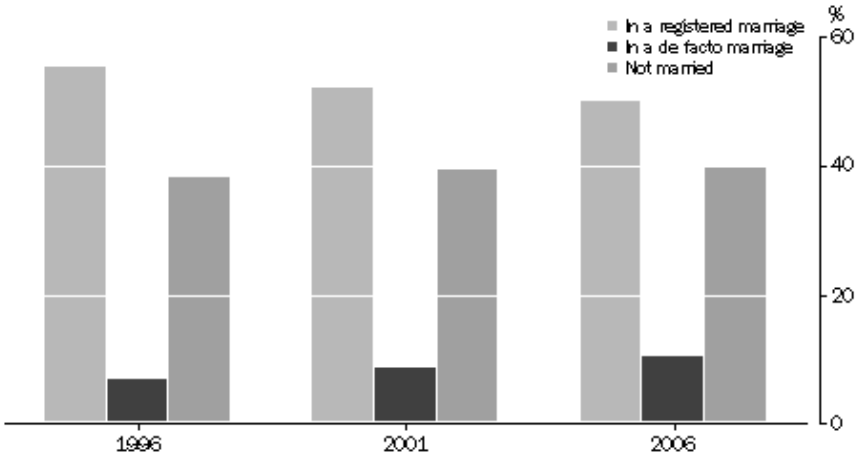
SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS

In 2006, 49.9% of all Tasmanians aged 15 years and over were in a registered marriage. This compared to 52.0% in 2001 and 55.2% in 1996.

In 2006, 35,700 persons or 10.4% of all Tasmanians aged 15 years and over were in a de facto marriage, compared to 22,400 or 6.8% of all Tasmanian aged 15 years and over in 1996. This represented an increase of 59.0% in persons in de facto marriages over the ten year period 1996-2006.

In 2006, the percentage of persons aged 15 years and over in Tasmania who were not married remained relatively steady, increasing only slightly to 39.6%, from 39.4% in 2001 and 38.0% in 1996.

SOCIAL MARITAL STATUS, Tasmania, 1996-2006



Persons aged 15 years and over.

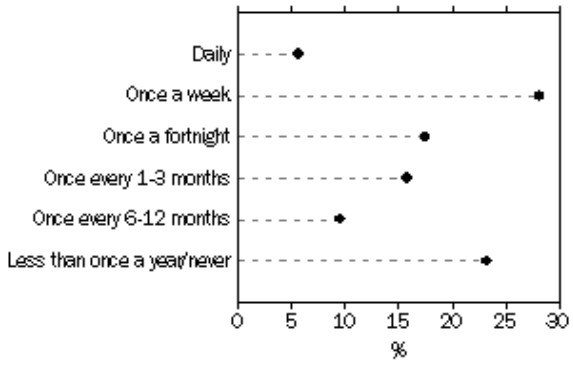
Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Time Series Profile, Table T05

CONTACT ARRANGEMENTS

In 2003, of children aged 0-17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere, 28.2% had face to face contact at least once a week, 17.5% had face to face contact less than once a week but at least once a fortnight, and 15.8% had face to face contact less than once a fortnight but at least once every 1-3 months. Almost a quarter (23.3%) of all children aged 0-17 years with a natural parent living elsewhere had face to face contact less than once a year or never.

Nearly half (49.4%) of all children with a natural parent living elsewhere never stay overnight with the parent living elsewhere.

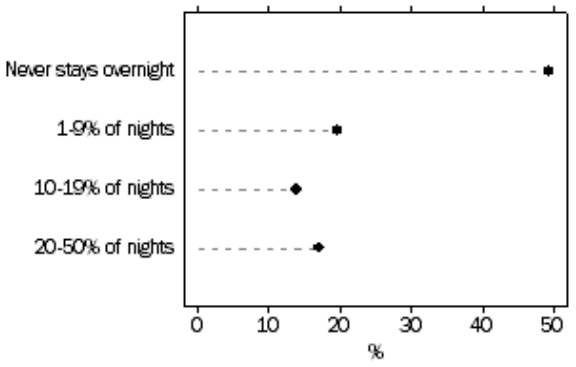
FREQUENCY OF FACE TO FACE CONTACT, Tasmania, 2003



Children aged 0-17 years.

Source: Family Characteristics, 2003 (cat. no. 4442.0)

NIGHTS WITH NATURAL PARENT LIVING ELSEWHERE, Tasmania, 2003



Children aged 0-17 years.

Source: Family Characteristics, 2003 (cat. no. 4442.0)

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS

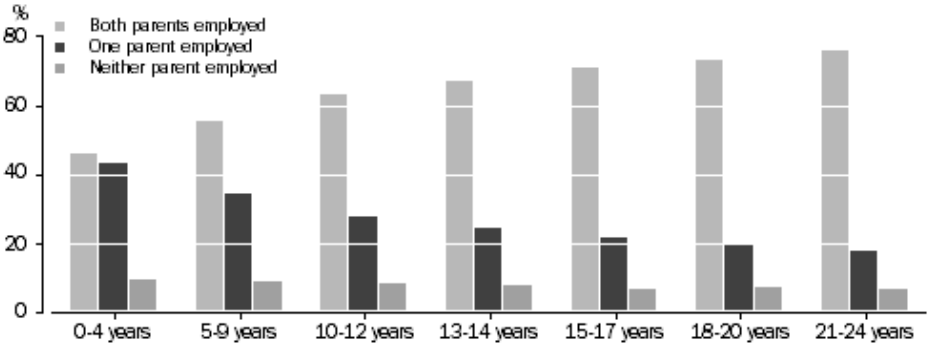
In 2006, more than half (58.4%) of all dependent children in couple families had both parents employed. The likelihood of both parents being employed increased with the age of the children. At the same time, 32.1% of dependent children in couple families had only one parent employed, with the likelihood decreasing with the age of the children.

Of one parent families with dependent children, 49.9% of children had an employed parent, with the likelihood generally increasing with the age of the children.

Of children living in couple families with children, only 8.3% had neither parent employed,

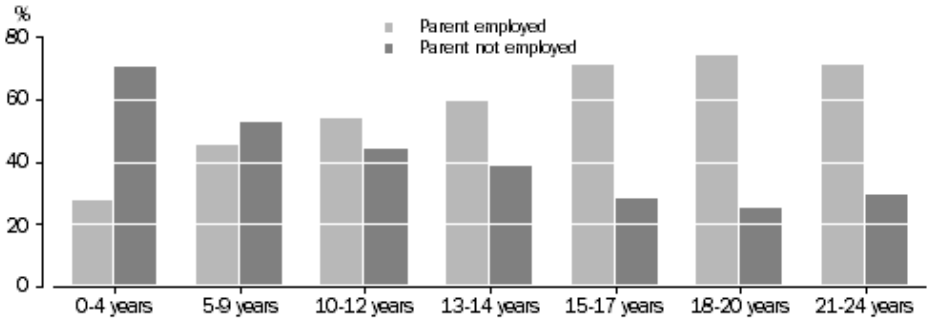
compared to 48.3% of children in one parent families. The likelihood of the parent in a one parent family with dependent children not being employed decreased markedly with the age of the children, from 70.3% for dependent children aged 0-4 years to 25.0% of dependent children aged 18-20 years, then increased again slightly to 29.3% for dependent children aged 21-24 years.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS,
Children in couple families, by age, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Expanded Community Profile, table X33, X34

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS,
Children in one parent families, by age, Tasmania, 2006

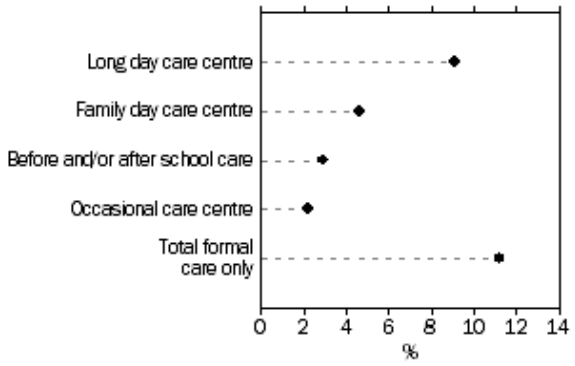


Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006, Expanded Community Profile, table X33, X34

CHILD CARE

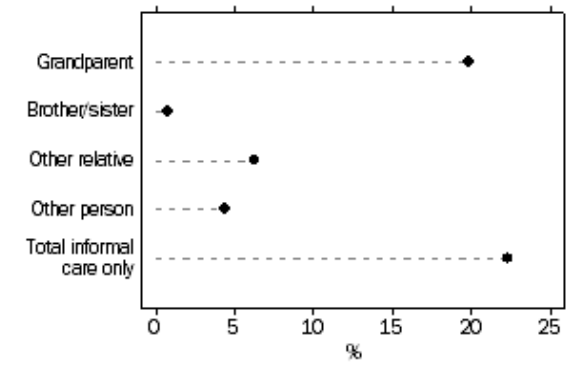
In 2005, 40.6% of children aged 0-12 years used child care; 11.2% used formal care only, 22.3% used informal care only and 7.1% used both formal and informal care. Long day care centre was the most commonly used form of formal child care (9.1%) followed by family day care centre (4.6%) and before and/or after school care (2.9%). Grandparents provided a significant proportion of informal child care (19.8%).

FORMAL CHILD CARE, Tasmania, 2005 **INFORMAL CHILD CARE, Tasmania, 2005**



Children aged 0-12 years.

Source: Child Care, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0)



Children aged 0-12 years.

Source: Child Care, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4402.0)

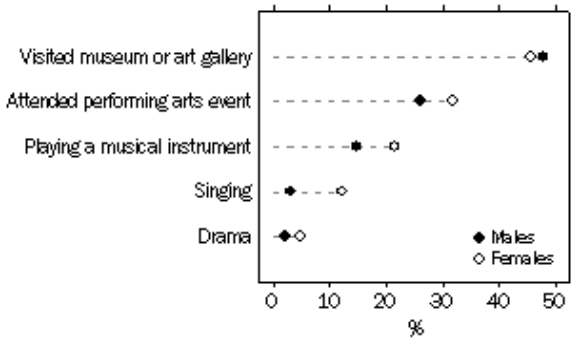
CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

In 2006, almost one third of Tasmanian children aged 5-14 years participated in cultural activities. Females were more likely to participate in cultural activities (46.9%) compared to males (18.4%).

More than half (59.2%) of all children aged 5-14 years participated in sport. Of those participating in sport, 17.5% of Tasmanian children played soccer (outdoor), followed by swimming (14.6%), and Australian Rules Football (10.0%).

Leisure pursuits were dominated by watching TV, videos or DVDs (95.4%), reading for pleasure (78.8%) and bike riding (72.5%). Most children used a computer (94.1%), with 61.2% of all children having accessed the Internet. Females were more likely to undertake art and craft (65.6% compared to males 42.1%), visiting a public library (54.4% compared to males 45.1%), and reading for pleasure (83.1% compared to males 74.8%). Males were more likely to play electronic or computer games (81.6% compared to females 49.1%), bike riding (77.4% compared to females 67.2%), and skateboarding or rollerblading (25.5% compared to females 16.3%).

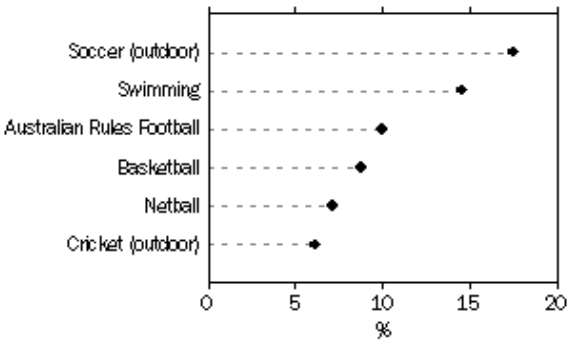
CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, By sex, Tasmania, 2006



Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN SPORT, Tasmania, 2006



Children aged 5-14 years.

Source: Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4901.0)

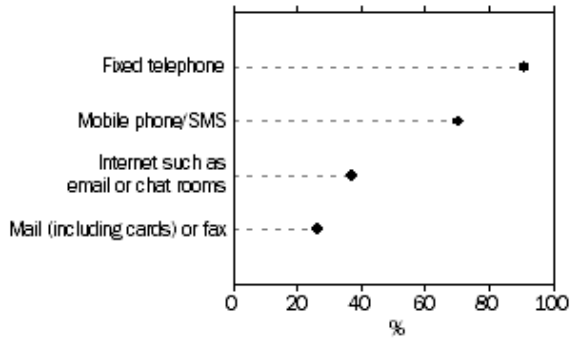
SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

In the week prior to the General Social Survey 2006, 84.0% of all persons in Tasmania aged 18 years and over had face to face contact with family or friends living outside the household. Face to face contact decreased with age, from 90.6% of persons aged 18-24 years to 77.4% of persons aged 75 years and over. The only exception was for the 65-74 year age group where 88.0% of persons indicated that they had had face to face contact in the previous week.

Other forms of contact with family and friends living outside the household were measured over a three month period. From March to July 2006, 91.0% of the Tasmanian population aged 18 years and over used a fixed telephone to contact family or friends living outside the household. This was followed by mobile phone/SMS (70.4%), Internet such as email or chat rooms (37.0%), and mail (including cards) or fax (26.4%).

The majority of persons aged 18 years and over attended at least one cultural and leisure venue or event in the last 12 months (86.9%). The most visited venues or events were cinemas (58.8%), libraries (43.4%), botanic gardens (37.2%) and museums (37.0%). Females were more likely to attend a cultural and leisure venue or event, while males were more likely to attend or participate in a sporting event or recreational physical activity.

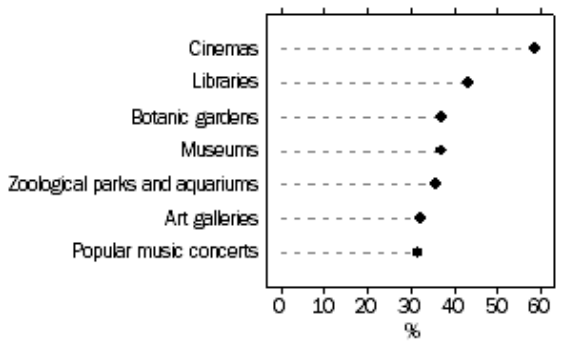
TYPE OF CONTACT WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS LIVING OUTSIDE THE HOUSEHOLD, Tasmania, 2006



Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

MAIN TYPES OF VENUES OR EVENTS ATTENDED, Tasmania, 2006



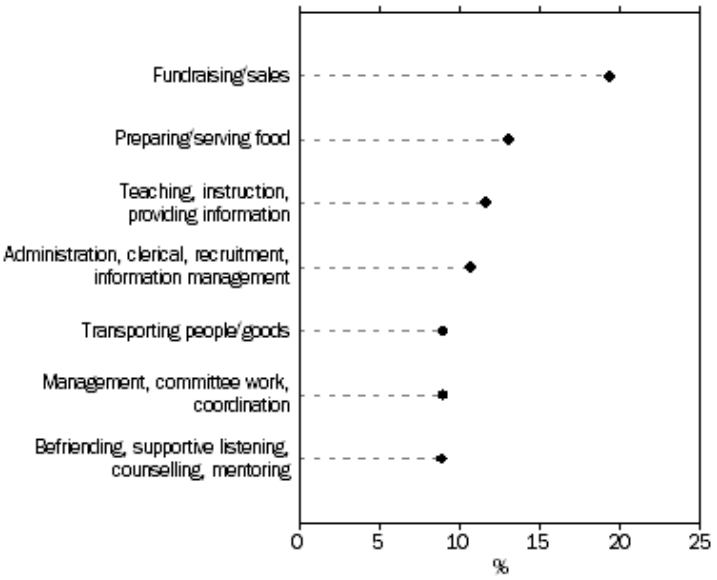
Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

VOLUNTARY WORK

According to the 2006 General Social Survey, 36.0% of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over undertook voluntary work in the 12 months prior to July 2006. Most volunteers were engaged in fundraising/sales (19.4%) followed by preparing/serving food (13.1%). This trend was reflected in persons aged 25-34 years, 45-54 years and 55-65 years. Persons aged 18-24 years were primarily engaged in teaching/instruction/providing information (15.0%) followed by fundraising/sales (14.8%). The majority of persons aged 35-44 years were engaged in fundraising/sales (20.5%) followed by teaching/instruction/providing information (17.2%) while those aged 65 years and over were engaged in fundraising/sales (19.6%) followed by administration/clerical/recruitment/information management (12.7%).

TYPE OF VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN, Tasmania, 2006



Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: General Social Survey, Tasmania, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

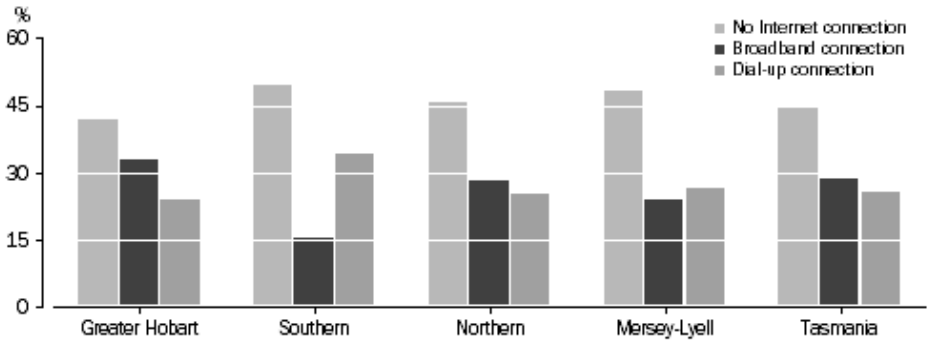
TYPE OF INTERNET CONNECTION

On Census night 2006, more than a quarter of Tasmanian dwellings (excluding not stated) had broadband internet access (28.6%), closely followed by dial-up connection (25.7%). Of all occupied private Tasmanian dwellings, 45.1% had no Internet connection.

Greater Hobart Statistical Division (SD) had the highest proportion of broadband connection (33.2%), compared to dial-up (24.1%). Northern SD reported 28.4% of dwellings with broadband and 25.1% with dial-up. Mersey-Lyell SD reported 24.2% with broadband and 26.7% with dial-up, and Southern SD reported 15.7% with broadband and 34.2% with dial-up.

Southern SD had the highest proportion of dwellings with no Internet connection (49.6%), followed by Mersey-Lyell SD (48.5%) and Northern SD (45.9%). Greater Hobart SD had the lowest (41.9%).

TYPE OF INTERNET CONNECTION, TASMANIAN DWELLINGS(a), By Statistical Division, Tasmania, Census Night 2006



(a) Excluding not stated.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2006. Data available on request.

SOURCES

2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS Community Profiles)

Australian Historical Population Statistics (ABS cat no. 3105.0.65.001)

Census Fact Sheet on Measures of Unpaid work (ABS cat. no. 2914.0)

Child Care, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4402.0)

Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4901.0)

Divorces, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3307.0.55.001)

Family Characteristics, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4442.0)

Family Characteristics and Transitions, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4442.0)

General Social Survey, Tasmania (ABS cat. no. 4159.6.55.001)

Marriages, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3306.0.55.001)

Further information can also be found on the Family and Community Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Household Economic Resources

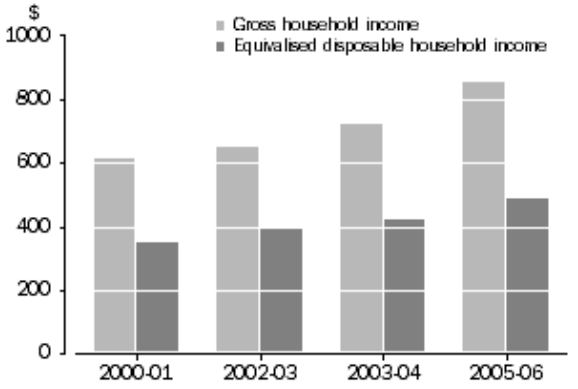
HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC RESOURCES

GROSS AND EQUIVALISED HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In recent times, Tasmanian households have recorded healthy growth in household income. In 2005-06, the median weekly gross household income in Tasmania was $850. This was an increase of 18.1% on the 2003-04 estimate of $720 and 38.9% on the 2000-01 estimate of $612.

In 2005-06, the Tasmanian median weekly equivalised disposable household income (household income adjusted to facilitate comparison between different sized households) was $486. This was a 15.7% increase on the 2003-04 estimate of $420 and a 38.9% increase on the 2000-01 estimate of $350.

MEDIAN WEEKLY GROSS AND EQUIVALISED DISPOSABLE HOUSEHOLD INCOME, Tasmania

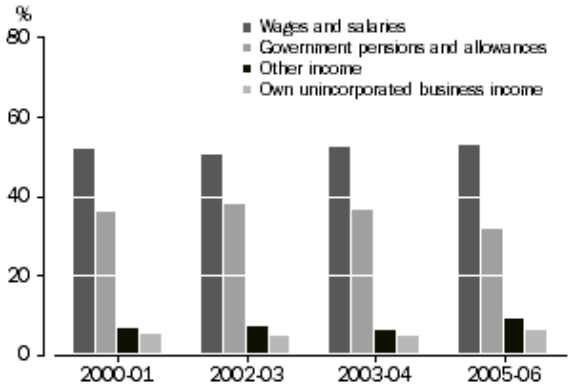


Source: Household Income and Income Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6523.0)

PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In 2005-06, wages and salaries were the main source of household income in Tasmania for 52.8% of households. This was followed by government pensions and allowances, which was the main source of income for 31.5% of households, and unincorporated business income (6.5%). Government pensions and allowances recorded a decline as the main source of household income, from 36.6% of households in 2003-04 to 31.5% in 2005-06.

PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME, Tasmania

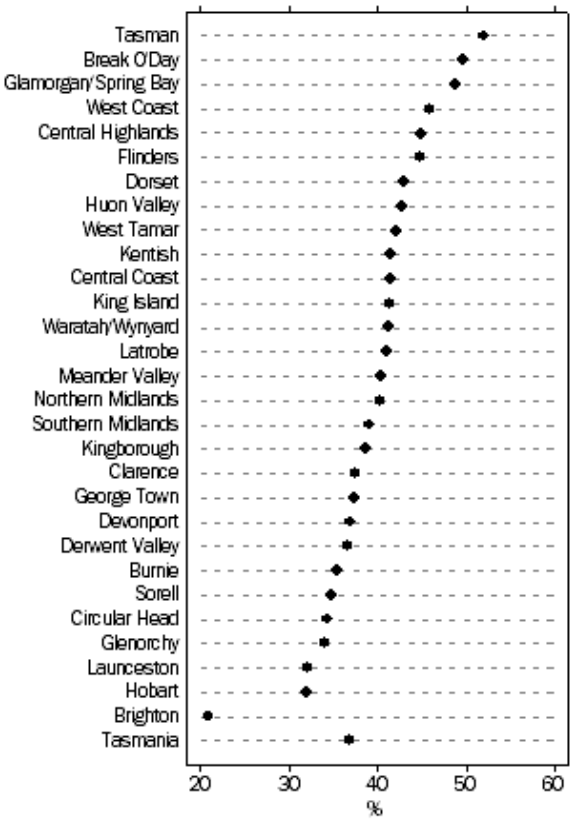


Source: Household Income and Income Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6523.0)

HOME OWNERSHIP

On Census night 2006, 36.8% of all occupied private dwellings in Tasmania were fully owned by the occupants. The local government areas (LGAs) with the highest percentage of home ownership were Tasman (52.1%) followed by Break O'Day (49.6%) and Glamorgan/Spring Bay (48.8%). Brighton was the LGA with the lowest percentage of home ownership (20.8%) followed by Hobart (32.0%) and Launceston (32.1%).

HOME OWNERSHIP, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings, by LGA

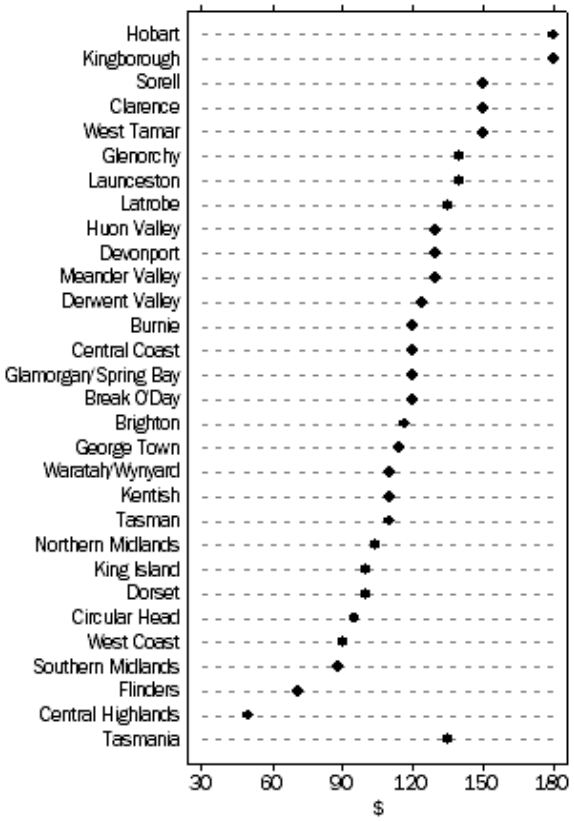


Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

HOUSING RENT PAID

On Census night 2006, the median weekly rent paid for occupied private dwellings in Tasmania was $135. The most expensive LGAs in which to rent were Hobart and Kingborough, each with a median weekly rent of $180 followed by West Tamar, Clarence and Sorell with a median weekly rent of $150. At the same time, Central Highlands LGA was the cheapest place to rent with a median weekly rent of $50, followed by Flinders ($71) and Southern Midlands ($88).

MEDIAN WEEKLY RENT PAID, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings, by LGA

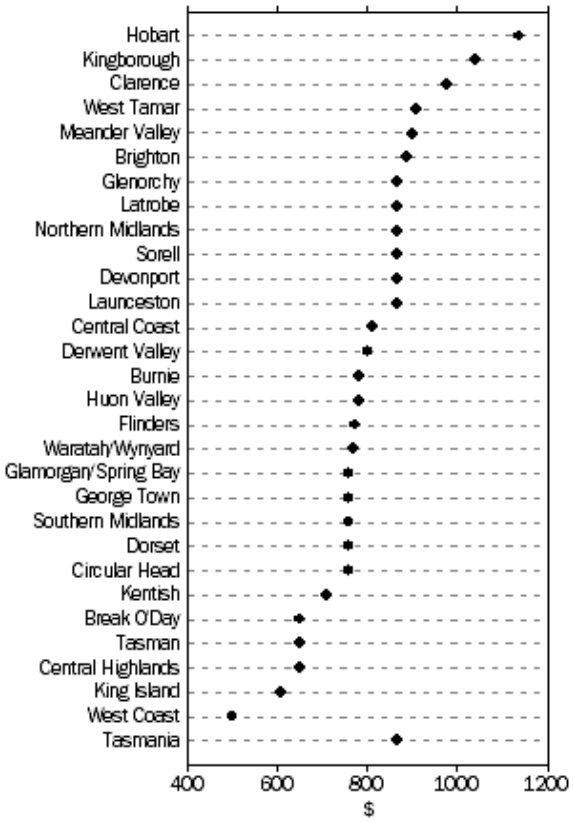


Source: Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

HOUSEHOLD HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENT

On Census night 2006, the median monthly home loan repayment for occupied private dwellings in Tasmania was $867. Hobart residents had the highest median monthly home loan repayment ($1,138), followed by Kingborough residents ($1,040) and Clarence residents ($975). West Coast residents had the lowest median monthly home loan repayment ($500), followed by King Island residents ($609), and Break O'Day, Central Highlands and Tasman residents (all with $650).

MEDIAN MONTHLY HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENT, Tasmanian occupied private dwellings, by LGA



Source: Census of Population and Housing - Community Profiles

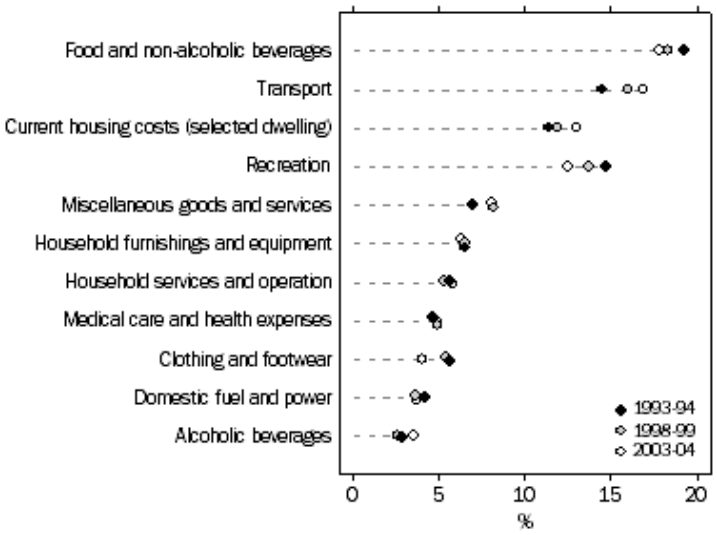
HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

In 2003-04, food and non-alcoholic beverages accounted for the largest expenditure by Tasmanian households on goods and services, contributing 17.8% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on these items has declined from 19.3% in 1993-94 and from 18.3% in 1998-99.)

Transport was the second biggest expenditure item in 2003-04, contributing 16.9% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on this item has increased from 14.9% in 1993-94 and from 16.0% in 1998-99.)

In 2003-04, housing costs contributed 13.0% of total household expenditure. (Expenditure on this item has increased from 11.4% in 1993-94 and from 11.9% in 1998-99.)

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON GOODS AND SERVICES, Percentage of total, Tasmania

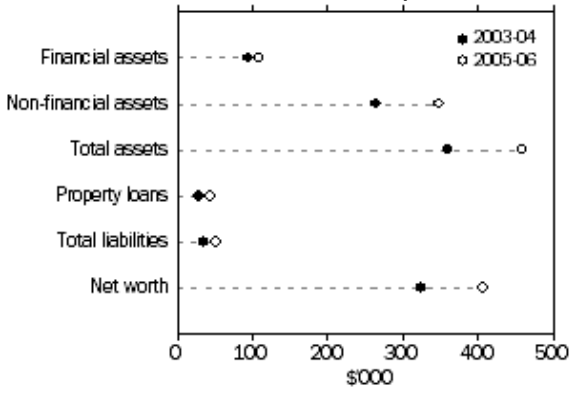


Source: Household Expenditure Survey, Australia (cat. no. 6530.0)

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

In 2005-06, average (mean) household net worth in Tasmania was $406,600 compared to $324,900 in 2003-04. Average household assets in 2005-06 were $458,500 comprising of $109,200 in financial assets and $349,200 in non-financial assets. On the other side of the ledger, average Tasmanian household liabilities in 2005-06 were $51,800 of which property loans contributed $44,900.

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, Tasmanian households



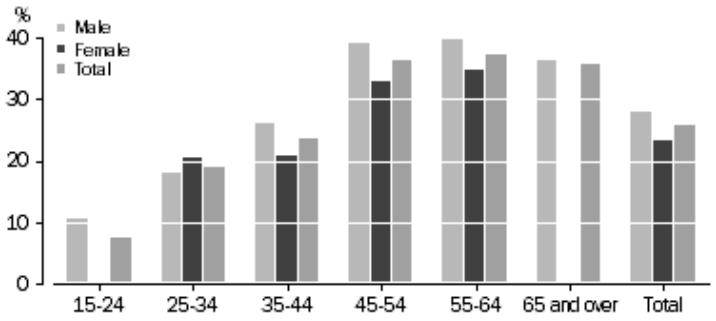
Source: Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution, Aust. (cat. no. 6554.0)

RETIREMENT AND SUPERANNUATION

Superannuation is an investment designed to assist people to save for their retirement. In 2007, from 206,200 employed persons in Tasmania with superannuation in the accumulation phase, there were 153,000 or 74.2% who were not making a personal superannuation contribution. Of the total male employed persons, 27.9% were making a personal contribution in the accumulation phase compared to 23.4% of female employees making a personal contribution.

Persons in the age group 55-64 were the group contributing most to their superannuation funds with 37.5% of this group contributing in the accumulation phase. The 45-54 years age group was the second biggest contributing group with 36.3%, and 65 and over with 35.7%.

SUPERANNUATION, EMPLOYED PERSONS MAKING PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION, by age and sex, Apr-Jul 2007, Tasmania



Note: The estimates for females 15-24 and 65 years and over, are not available for publication but included in the totals where applicable.

Source: Employment arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation; State Tables, Apr to Jul 2007 (cat. no. 6361.0.55.003)

SOURCES

2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS Community Profiles)

Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation; State Tables, Apr to Jul 2007 (ABS cat. no. 6361.0.55.003)

Government Benefits, Taxes and Household Income, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6537.0)

Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6523.0)

Household Expenditure Survey, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6530.0)

Household Wealth and Wealth Distribution (ABS cat. no. 6554.0)

Housing Occupancy and Costs, Australia, Detailed Tables (ABS cat. no. 4130.0.55.001)

Further information can also be found on the Personal, Family and Household Finances Theme Page of the ABS website.

Education

EDUCATION

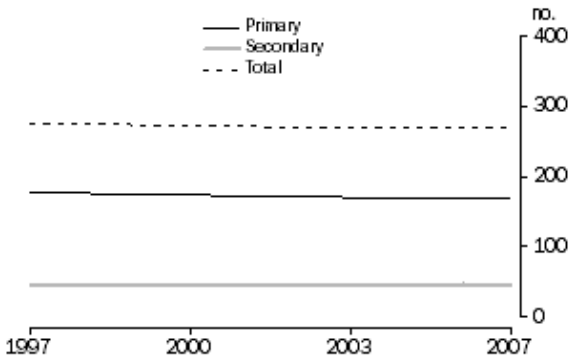
SCHOOLS

In August 2007, there were 277 schools in Tasmania, of which 210 (75.8%) were government schools and 67 (24.2%) were non-government schools. There were 169 (61.0%) primary only schools, 46 (16.6%) secondary only schools, 56 (20.2%) combined primary/secondary schools and 6 (2.2%) special schools.

The number of schools in a particular year can be affected by structural change in the composition of schooling rather than necessarily a change in the number of sites delivering full-

time school education. That stated, over the ten-year period 1997-2007, the numbers and proportions of primary only and secondary only schools have remained steady. In 1997, there were 178 primary only schools in Tasmania representing 64.3% of all schools (not including special schools). The corresponding data for secondary only schools were 47 schools representing 17.0%.

SCHOOLS(a), Tasmania



(a) Excludes special schools.

Source: Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4221.0)

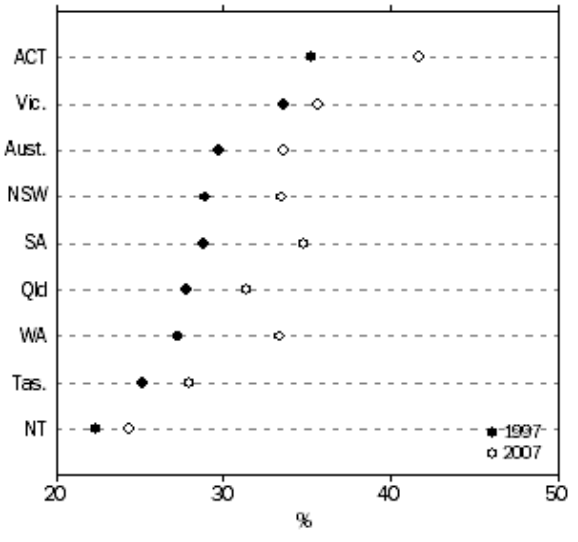
SCHOOL STUDENTS

In August 2007, there were 81,859 full-time school students in Tasmania. From 1997 to 2007, the number of full-time students attending government schools fell by 6.3% (from 62,921 to 58,926), while the number attending non-government schools increased by 8.0% (from 21,236 to 22,933).

In August 2007, 55.0% of all full-time school students in Tasmania were attending primary schools (45,006); 45.0% were attending secondary schools (36,853).

In August 2007, apart from the Northern Territory (NT), Tasmania had the lowest proportion of full-time students attending non-government schools (28.0%). By contrast, the state or territory with the highest proportion was the Australian Capital Territory with 41.7%.

PROPORTION OF NON-GOVERNMENT FULL-TIME STUDENTS



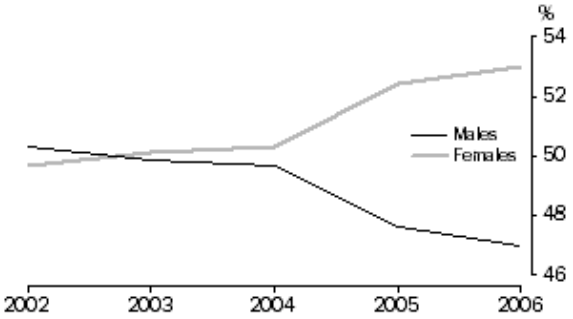
Source: Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4221.0)

There were 1,648 part-time school students in Tasmania in August 2007, a significant decrease (42.8%) on the numbers in 1997 (2,883). There were 5,128 indigenous full-time school students, a significant increase (28.7%) on the numbers in 1997 (3,985).

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

In 2006, there were 18,759 higher education students in Tasmania. Of these, 53.0% were female, 76.2% were undertaking a bachelor degree and 16.1% were undertaking postgraduate study. The most popular field of education study by Tasmanian higher education students in 2006 was 'society and culture' (23.2% of all students) followed by 'management and commerce' (18.2%).

PROPORTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS, by Gender, Tasmania



(a) Excludes special schools.

Source: Dept of Education, Science and Training, Students, 2000–2006: Selected Higher Education Statistics

AGE PARTICIPATION RATES

The school age participation rate indicates the proportion of the resident population who are at school. Occasionally, a participation rate can exceed 100%, mainly due to the enrolment of students in schools who are not residents of that state. The age participation rates for full-time Tasmanian school students in August 2007 were 99.6% for 14 year olds, 100.5% for 15 year olds, 84.7% for 16 year olds and 63.3% for 17 year olds.

Tasmania's participation rate for 17 year olds was not the lowest of any state or territory. It exceeded that of Western Australia (40.2%), the NT (44.9%) and Queensland (47.8%).

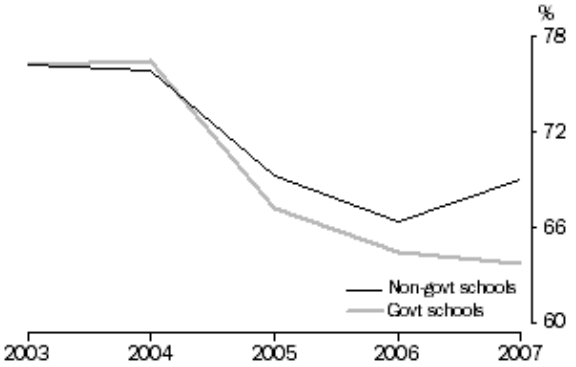
APPARENT RETENTION RATES

The apparent retention rate is the number of school students in a designated level/year of education expressed as a percentage of their respective cohort group. To calculate the apparent retention rate of full-time secondary school students in Tasmania, the total of full-time students in Year 12 in August 2007 is divided by the number of full-time students in the base year, which is Year 7. The resultant figure is converted to a percentage. Care should be taken in interpreting apparent retention rates as the method of calculation does not take into account a range of factors. Please refer to paragraphs 21 and 22 of the explanatory notes in Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat no. 4221.0).

In August 2007, the apparent retention rate of full-time Tasmanian students from Year 7/8 to Year 12 was 65.4%, compared to 58.6% in 1997. The apparent retention rate for females in 2007 was 73.9% and for males 57.4%.

In recent years, apparent retention rates for students in non-government schools have exceeded those for students in government schools. In August 2007, the apparent retention rate of full-time Tasmanian students from Year 10 to Year 12 was 69.0% for those in non-government schools, compared to 63.7% for those in government schools.

APPARENT RETENTION RATES, Year 10 to Year 12, Tasmania



Source: Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4221.0)

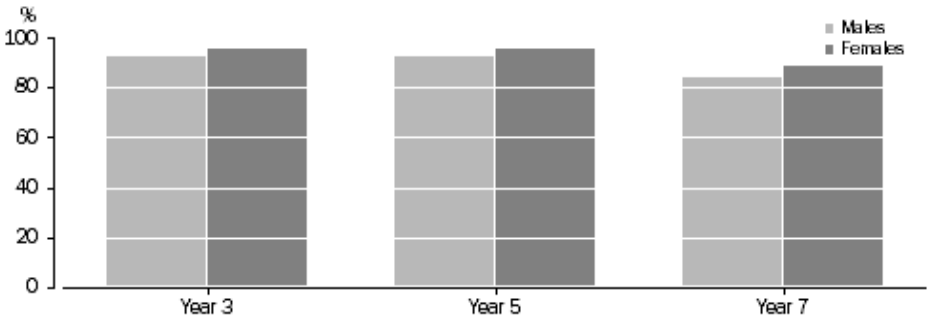
STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK

In March 1997, all state, territory and commonwealth education ministers agreed on the national goal: *that every child leaving primary school should be numerate and able to read, write and spell at an appropriate level.*The Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) publishes national reports which include the results of testing conducted to identify the achievement of students in each of Years 3, 5 and 7 as measured against national benchmarks for reading, writing and numeracy.

In general, the results for Tasmania for 2006 show that the large majority of Years 3, 5 and 7 students are achieving at the benchmark level or better in reading, writing and numeracy. The highest percentage results for Tasmania were gained by Year 3 and Year 5 students for reading where both cohorts saw 94.1% of students achieving at the benchmark level or better; the lowest percentage result was gained by Year 7 for numeracy (80.4%).

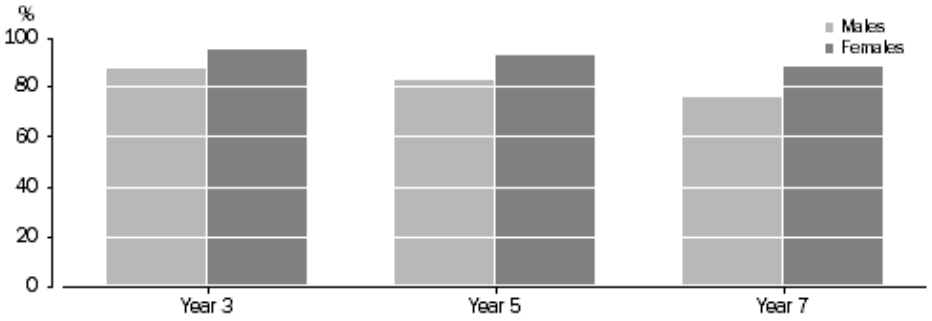
Across all categories and Years except one, Tasmanian female school students achieved better benchmark results than equivalent male school students. The one exception was for Year 7 numeracy where 80.4% of males achieved the benchmark or better compared to 80.3% for females.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK IN READING, Tasmania, 2006



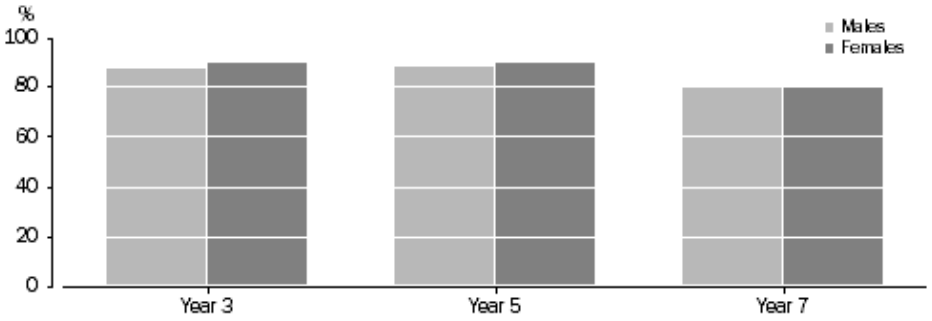
Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia
Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK IN WRITING, Tasmania, 2006



Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia
Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING BENCHMARK IN NUMERACY, Tasmania, 2006



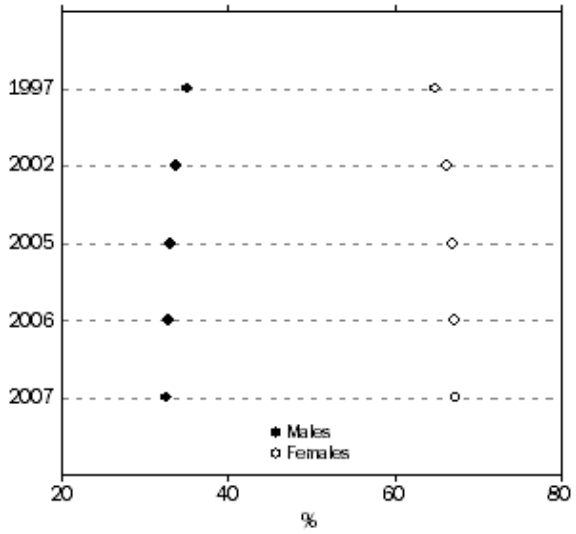
Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia
Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

SCHOOL TEACHERS

There were 6,927 teaching staff in Tasmania in August 2007. Of these, 4,850 were female and 2,077 were male.

There were 5,800 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching staff in Tasmania in August 2007. Of these, 4,148 were at government schools and 1,652 were at non-government schools; 2,959 were at secondary schools and 2,841 were at primary schools; and 3,908 were female and 1,892 were male.

PROPORTION OF FTE TEACHING STAFF, by Gender, Tasmania



Source: Schools, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4221.0)

The proportion of Tasmanian FTE female teaching staff has continued to rise, albeit slowly, since 1997. Conversely, the proportion of male staff has fallen. In August 2007, 67.4% of all Tasmanian FTE teachers were female; this compared to 64.9% in 1997. In August 2007, 32.6% of all Tasmanian FTE teachers were male; this compared to 35.1% in 1997.

Tasmanian primary schools have significantly more female teachers than male teachers. In August 2007, 79.5% of all FTE teachers in primary schools were female compared to 55.8% in secondary schools. The comparable figures in 1997 were 78.1% and 52.4% respectively.

Overall, in August 2007, the average number of FTE Tasmanian primary school students per FTE teacher was 15.8. In government primary schools the average was 15.6; in non-government primary schools it was 16.6. The equivalent figures for secondary schools were 12.8 students, with an average of 13.1 in government secondary schools and 12.1 in non-government secondary schools.

SOURCES

Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA)

Schools, Australia (ABS cat no. 4221.0)

Further information can also be found on the Education and Training Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Housing and Construction

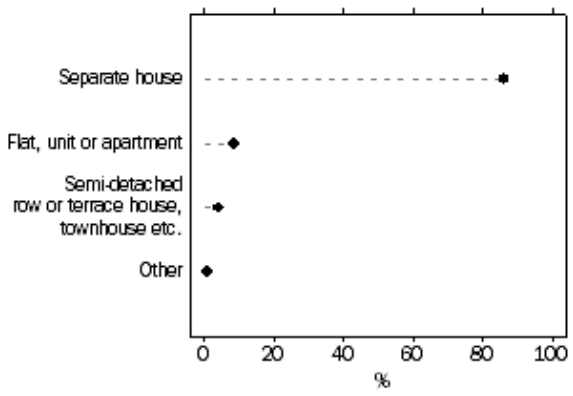
HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

DWELLING STRUCTURE

According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, on 8 August 2006, there were 189,100 occupied private dwellings in Tasmania. Of these, 86.2% were separate houses, 8.6% were flats, units or apartments and 4.2% were semi-detached row or terrace houses, townhouses etc.

Of the total dwellings, 48.5% were in the Greater Hobart-Southern region, 30.4% in the Northern Region, and 21.2% in the Mersey-Lyell Region. As might be expected, this corresponded broadly with the resident population in 2006, of which 49.3% were in Greater Hobart-Southern Region, 28.3% in the Northern Region and 22.4% in Mersey-Lyell.

DWELLING STRUCTURE, Occupied private dwellings, Tasmania 2006

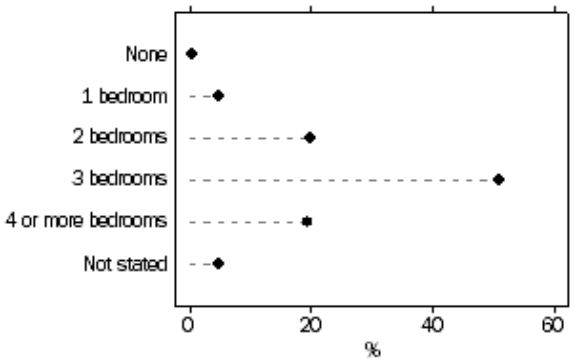


Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS IN OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS

On Census night 2006, of the total occupied private dwellings in Tasmania, 19.4% had four or more bedrooms, 51.0% had three bedrooms, 19.8% had two bedrooms and 4.7% had one bedroom.

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS, Occupied private dwellings, Tasmania 2006



Note: 'None' includes bedsitters

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Community Profiles

BUILDING APPROVALS

Residential

In 2007-08, there were 2,884 new residential buildings approved in Tasmania which is virtually

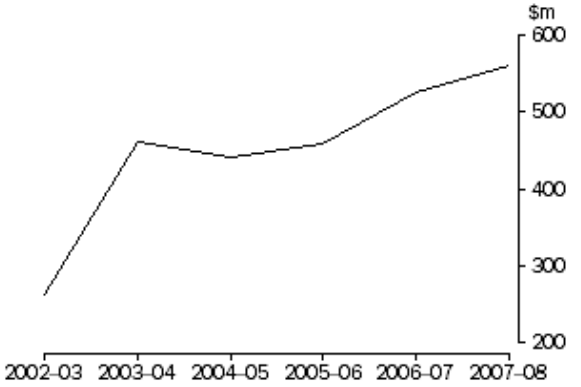
unchanged on 2006-07 new residential approvals of 2,889.

The value of Tasmanian new residential buildings approved stood at $560.8 million. This was an increase of 6.8% on the 2006-07 figure and a 114.0% increase on the 2002-03 figure. Between 2003-04 and 2004-05, the value of new residential buildings approved in Tasmania decreased by 4.7%, but in the previous period 2002-03 to 2003-04 the value of new residential buildings approved increased by 76.4%.

NUMBER OF NEW BUILDING APPROVALS (residential), Tasmania

Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no.8731.0)

VALUE OF NEW BUILDING APPROVALS (residential), Tasmania

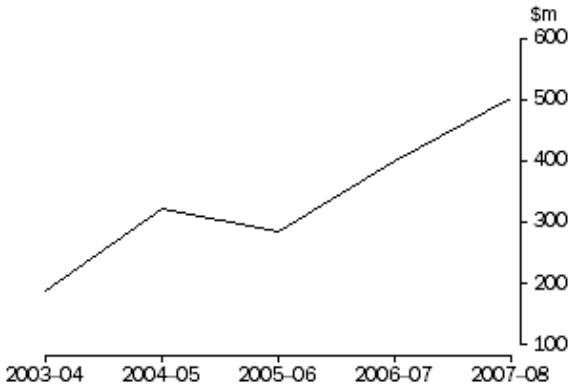


Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no.8731.0)

Non-residential

In 2007-08, the total value of new non-residential buildings approved was $502.7 million. This represented an increase of 26.1% on the total value of new non-residential buildings approved in 2006-07 and a 149.5% increase on the 2002-03 figure. While the total value of new non-residential buildings decreased from 2004-05 to 2005-06 by 12.6%, the previous period, 2003-04 to 2004-05, saw a marked increase of 72.2% from $188.1 million to $323.9 million.

VALUE OF NEW BUILDING APPROVALS (non-residential), Tasmania



Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no.8731.0)

Building approvals by Local Government Area

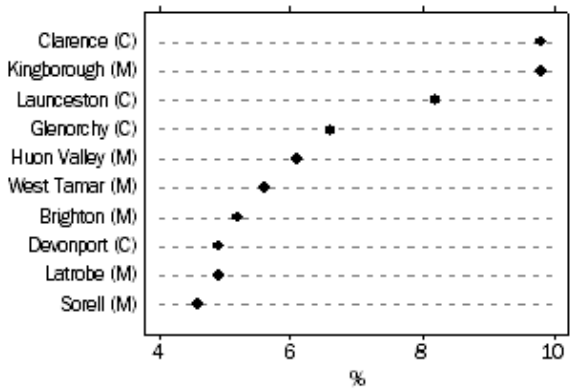
In 2007-08, the local government areas of Clarence and Kingborough recorded the highest number of new residential building approvals for Tasmania, (288 each or 9.8% of the Tasmanian total) followed by Launceston (242), and Glenorchy (193) which represented 8.2% and 6.6% respectively of the Tasmanian total.

For the Greater Hobart-Southern Region, the local government areas recording the largest share of new residential building approvals in 2007-08 were Clarence, and Kingborough, (18.1% of the total approvals for the region each), followed by Glenorchy (12.1%), and Huon Valley (11.2%).

For the Northern Region, the three local government areas with the highest proportion of building approvals in 2007-08 were Launceston (32.9%), West Tamar (22.5%), and Meander Valley (14.7%).

For the Mersey-Lyell Region, the three local government areas with the highest proportion of building approvals in 2007-08 were Devonport (23.7%), Latrobe (23.6%), and Central Coast (19.2%).

NEW RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS, top 10 contributors to the state total by local government area, Tasmania, 2007-08



Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0)

PROPERTY SALES

In 2007-08, the local government areas of Launceston (11.7%), Hobart (8.2%), and Clarence (8.1%) made the highest contribution to the total number of property sales in Tasmania.

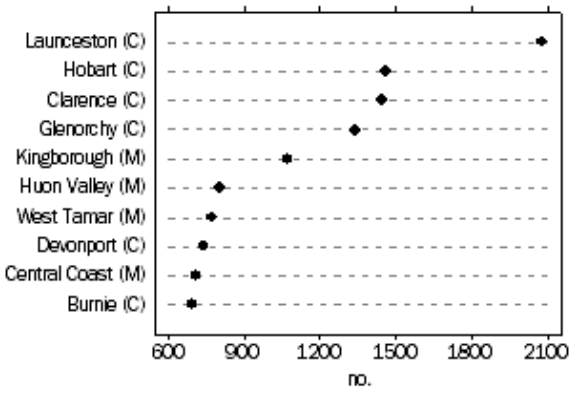
In the Greater Hobart-Southern Region, the three local government areas recording the highest number of property sales in 2007-08 were Hobart, Clarence and Glenorchy with 17.1%, 16.9% and 15.6% respectively, of the total property sales in Greater Hobart-Southern Region.

In the Northern Region, the three local government areas recording the highest number of property sales in 2007-08 were Devonport (17.4%), Central Coast (16.8%), and Burnie (16.4%) of the total property sales in this region.

In the Mersey-Lyell Region, the three local government areas recording the highest number of property sales in 2007-08 were Launceston (41.9%), West Tamar (15.6%), and Meander Valley (12.5%).

The mean sales price for properties in Tasmania rose from $256,500 in 2006-07 to $286,900 in 2007-08, an increase of 11.8%.

NUMBER OF PROPERTY SALES, top 10 local government areas, Tasmania, 2007-08

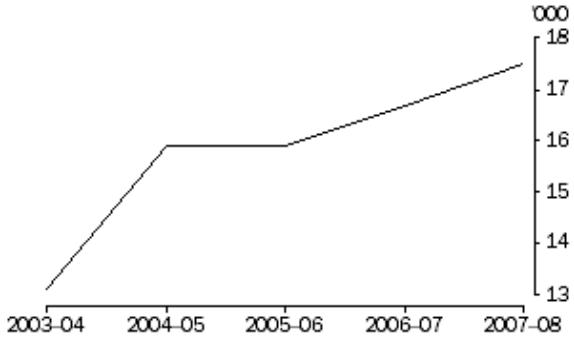


Source: Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Over the last five years the construction industry in Tasmania recorded a steady increase in the number of people employed. In 2007-08, there were 17,500 people working in the construction industry in Tasmania. This represented an increase of 4.8% on 2006-07, and 33.6% on 2003-04. In 2007-08, the Tasmanian construction industry employed 7.6% of the state's total employed persons.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, Tasmania



Note: Annual averages of original series.

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.00.55.003)

For further details on the value of engineering construction in Tasmania, refer to the Industry section of this publication.

SOURCES

2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS QuickStats)

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (ABS cat. no. 1216.0)

Building Approvals, Australia (ABS cat. no. 8731.0)

Department of Primary Industries and Water, Tasmania

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Further information can also be found on the Housing Statistics Theme Page and the Construction Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Transport

TRANSPORT

ROADS

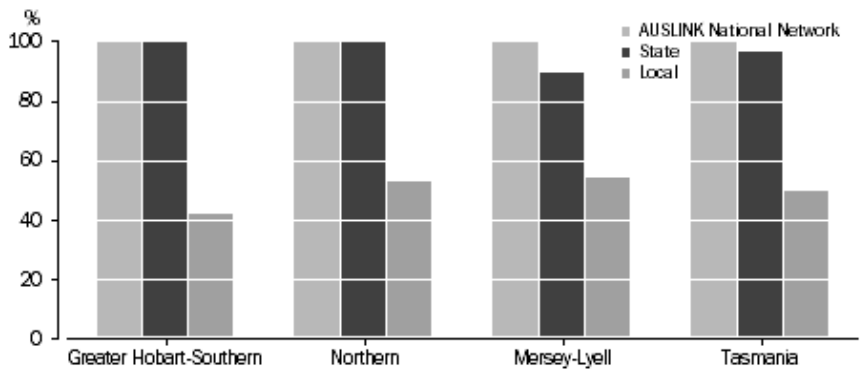
At 30 June 2007, Tasmania had 17,969km of government-owned roads. This included roads owned by national, state and local governments. It excluded private roads, unformed roads and tracks.

The AUSLINK National Network was responsible for 482km of roads, all of which were sealed. Of these, 88km (18.3%) were in Greater Hobart-Southern Region, 257km (53.3%) were in Northern Region, and 137km (28.4%) were in Mersey-Lyell Region.

The state government administered 3,264km of roads in Tasmania, 96.3% of which were sealed. Greater Hobart-Southern Region had 1,297km (39.7%) of these roads, all of which were sealed; Northern Region had 913km (28.0%), 99.3% of which were sealed; and Mersey-Lyell Region had 1,055km (32.3%), 89.2% of which were sealed.

Roads owned by local governments covered 14,173km, less than half (49.3%) of which were sealed. Greater Hobart-Southern Region had 5,226km (36.9%) of these roads, 42.0% of which were sealed; Northern Region had 4,919km (34.7%), 52.9% of which were sealed; and Mersey-Lyell Region had 4,028km (28.4%), 54.2% of which were sealed.

GOVERNMENT-OWNED ROADS, Sealed



Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Asset Information Group
Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Measuring Council Performance, 2006-07

MOTOR VEHICLES

In 2006, there were 378,865 vehicles registered in Tasmania. Of these, 40.7% were manufactured between 1991-2000, 30.6% between 2001-2006, 22.4% between 1981-1990,

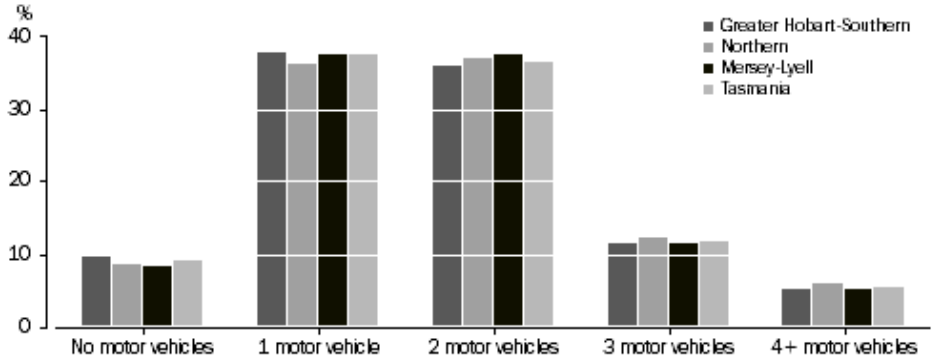
4.9% between 1971-1980, and 1.4% before 1970. Passenger vehicles accounted for 72.1% of all registered vehicles in Tasmania, followed by light commercial vehicles (20.0%), motor cycles (2.9%), heavy rigid trucks (2.1%) and campervans (1.0%).

According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, 37.4% of occupied private dwellings in Tasmania had one motor vehicle, 36.6% had two motor vehicles, 11.7% had three motor vehicles and 5.4% had four or more motor vehicles. Almost 1 in 10 occupied private dwellings (9.0%) did not have a motor vehicle.

Southern Midlands (11.1%) had the highest proportion of occupied private dwellings with four or more cars, followed by Central Highlands and Kentish (both 9.2%), Meander Valley (8.2%) and Dorset (8.0%).

Glenorchy (14.1%) had the highest proportion of occupied private dwellings with no motor vehicles, followed by Hobart (13.0%), Flinders (12.4%), Launceston (11.8%) and West Coast (11.3%).

MOTOR VEHICLES BY DWELLINGS(a)



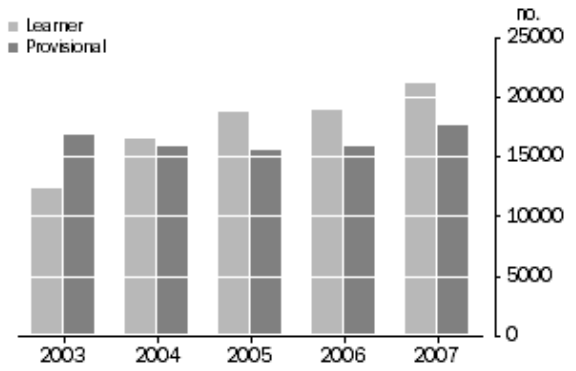
(a) Excludes number of vehicles not stated.

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing, Basic Community Profile, Table B29

DRIVERS' LICENCES

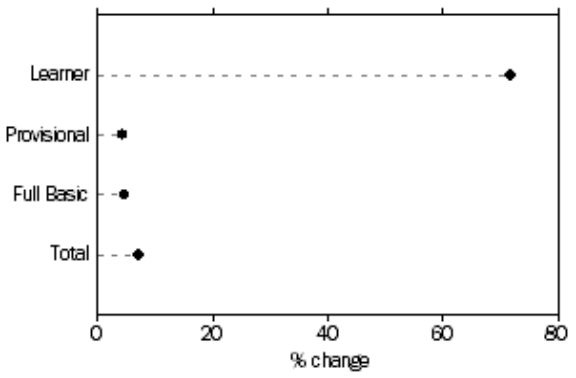
The number of drivers' licences increased steadily, from 328,063 in 2003 to 352,062 in 2007, an increase of 7.3%. The number of full basic drivers' licences increased 4.8%, from 298,894 in 2003 to 313,299 in 2007. There was a dramatic increase (71.9%) in the number of learner drivers' licences, from 12,348 in 2003 to 21,221 in 2007. During the same period, the number of provisional drivers' licences increased 4.3%, from 16,821 in 2003 to 17,542 in 2007.

DRIVERS' LICENCES



Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Transport Statistics, Historical Licence Data, 1987-2007

DRIVERS' LICENCES, 2003-2007



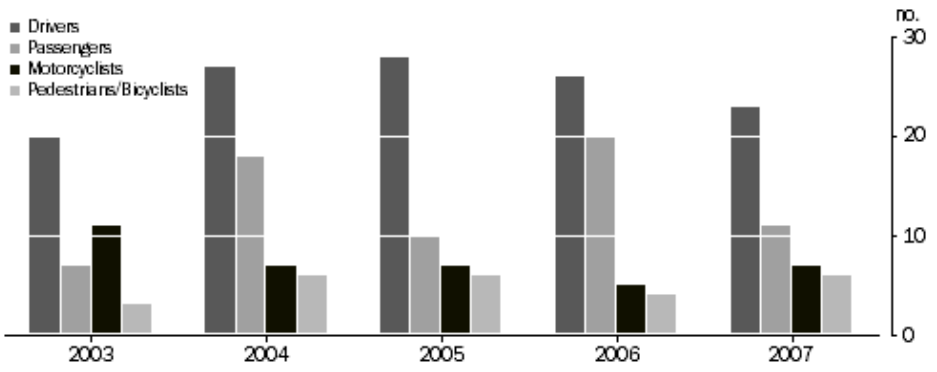
Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Transport Statistics, Historical Licence Data, 1987-2007

PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED IN ROAD CRASHES

The number of persons killed or injured in road crashes remained relatively unchanged during the 5 year period 2003-2007. Fatalities fluctuated between 41 and 58, while serious injuries decreased from 390 in 2003 to 332 in 2007. Minor injuries increased from 1,452 in 2003 to 1,502 in 2006.

In 2007, more than half of all road crash fatalities were drivers (56.1%), followed by passengers (26.8%), motorcyclists (17.1%) and pedestrians/bicyclists (14.6%).

PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD CRASHES

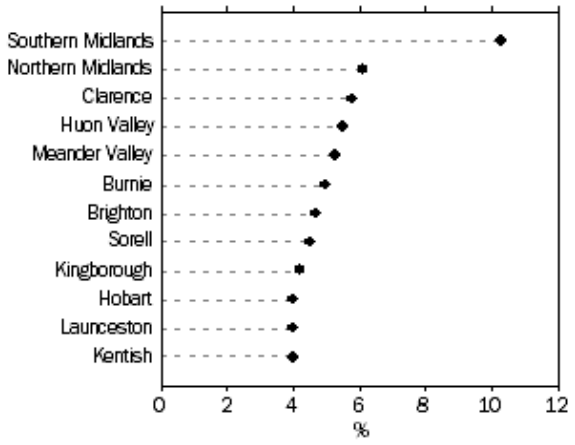


Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Annual Report, 2007

In 2007, the highest proportion (50.1%) of serious casualties (fatalities and serious injuries) occurred in Greater Hobart-Southern Region, compared with Mersey-Lyell Region (25.1%) and Northern Region (24.8%).

Southern Midlands (10.3%) had the highest proportion of serious casualties, followed by Northern Midlands (6.1%), Clarence (5.8%), Huon Valley (5.5%) and Meander Valley (5.3%).

SERIOUS CASUALTIES, by Top 12 LGAs, 2007



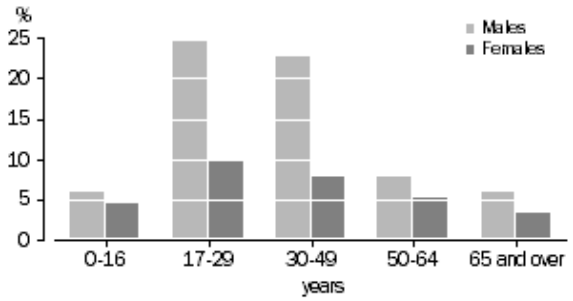
Note: Serious casualties refer to fatalities and serious injuries. Serious injury means the person was hospitalised for 24 hours or more.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Crash Statistics, 2007

In 2007, 257 (67.8%) serious casualties were male. This was more than double the 122 (32.2%) female serious casualties. Male serious casualties outnumbered females in all age groups. Younger males, aged 17-29 years, were most likely to be a serious casualty (24.8%), followed by males aged 30-49 years (22.7%) and females aged 17-29 years (10.0%).

Over one third (34.8%) of serious casualties were aged 17-29 years, 30.6% were aged 30-49 years, 13.2% were aged 50-64 years, 10.8% were aged under 17 years, and 9.5% were aged 65 years and over.

SERIOUS CASUALTIES, 2007

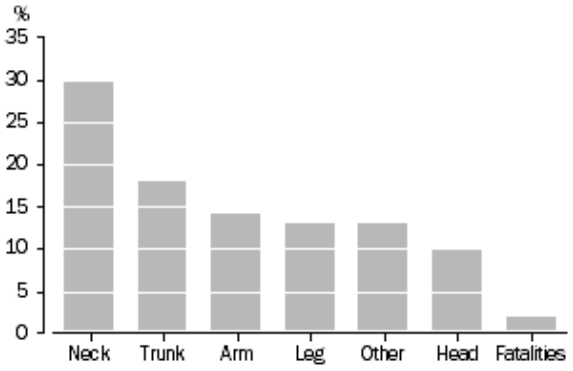


Note: Serious casualties refer to fatalities and serious injuries. Serious injury means the person was hospitalised for 24 hours or more.

Source: Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Crash Statistics, 2007

Neck injuries accounted for the highest proportion (30.0%) of injury claims lodged at the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB) in 2006-07, followed by trunk injuries (18.0%) and arm injuries (14.0%). Fatalities accounted for 2.0% of all claims lodged.

INJURY CLAIMS, 2007

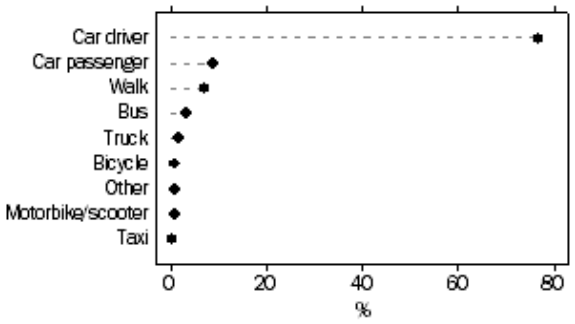


Source: Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB), Annual Report, 2007

METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK

According to the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, most employed persons aged 15 years and over in Tasmania (81.5%) used one method of travel to get to work, less than 1% used two methods of travel to get to work, 4.8% worked at home and 12.7% did not go to work. Of employed persons who used one method of transport to get to work, most (76.6%) travelled by car, as driver, followed by car, as passenger (8.9%) and walking (7.1%).

METHOD OF TRAVEL TO WORK(a)(b)



(a) Employed persons aged 15 years and over.
(b) Excludes method of travel not stated.

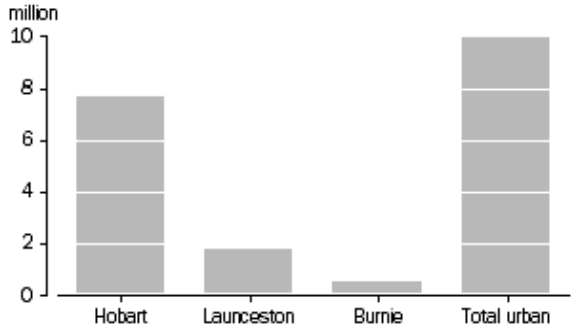
Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profile, Table B45

BUS PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

There were 9.9 million Metro bus passenger trips in Tasmania in 2006-07, an increase of 4.2% in passenger trips from the 2002-03 figure of 9.5 million. Of the trips made in 2006-07, some 7.7 million (77.1%) were in Hobart, 1.8 million (17.8%) were in Launceston and 0.5 million (5.1%) were in Burnie.

During the five year period 2002-03 to 2006-07, Hobart experienced a 6.8% increase in bus passenger movements, while Launceston (-2.9%) and Burnie (-6.4%) both experienced a decrease.

BUS PASSENGER MOVEMENTS(a), 2007

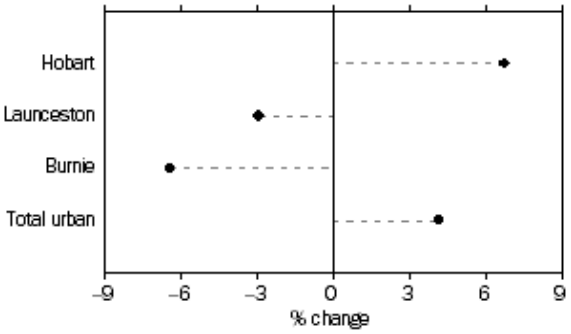


(a) Includes transfer, charter and contract services.

Note: Hobart means all urban areas within 22km of the Hobart GPO other than Midway Point, Sorell, Richmond, Cambridge, Collinsvale, Kingston, Blackmans Bay, Margate and Snug, Launceston means all urban areas within 12km of the Launceston GPO other than Legana. Burnie means all urban areas in the municipality of Burnie, plus Wynyard and Ulverstone (except that Metro does not operate services within Ulverstone at times when passengers are travelling to/from school).

Source: Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd, Annual Report 2007

CHANGE IN BUS PASSENGER MOVEMENTS(a), 2002-03 to 2006-07



(a) Includes transfer, charter and contract services.

Note: Hobart means all urban areas within 22km of the Hobart GPO other than Midway Point, Sorell, Richmond, Cambridge, Collinsvale, Kingston, Blackmans Bay, Margate and Snug, Launceston means all urban areas within 12km of the Launceston GPO other than Legana. Burnie means all urban areas in the municipality of Burnie, plus Wynyard and Ulverstone (except that Metro does not operate services within Ulverstone at times when passengers are travelling to/from school).

Source: Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd, Annual Report 2007

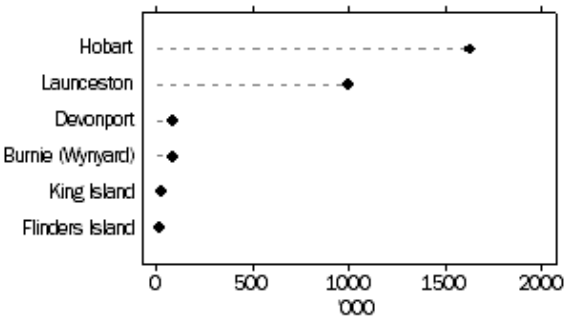
AIR PASSENGER MOVEMENTS

In 2006-07, most air passenger movement in Tasmania occurred in and out of Hobart airport (1.6 million) and Launceston airport (996,000), compared with Devonport and Burnie (Wynyard) airports (both 88,000), King Island (30,000) and Flinders Island (18,000).

During the 5 year period 2002-03 to 2006-07, most of the main airports in Tasmania experienced a substantial increase in the number of passengers boarding or departing by major domestic and

regional airlines. Flinders Island experienced the highest percentage change (157.1%), with an increase in air passenger movements from 7,000 in 2002-03 to 18,000 in 2006-07. For the same period, this was followed by King Island, with an increase from 16,000 to 30,000 (87.5%); Launceston from 574,000 to 996,000 (73.5%); and Hobart from 1.0 million to 1.6 million (61.3%). Devonport (-19.3%) and Burnie (Wynyard) (-1.1%) both experienced decreased air passenger movement during the same period.

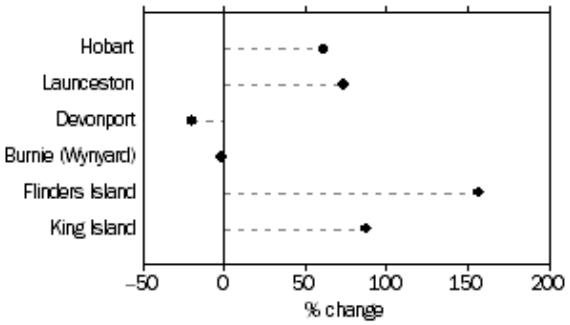
AIR PASSENGER MOVEMENTS(a), Main airports, Tasmania, 2006-07



(a) Scheduled domestic and regional airline services only. Charters are not included.

Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), Airport Traffic Data, 1997-98 to 2006-07

CHANGE IN AIR PASSENGER MOVEMENTS(a), Main airports, Tasmania, 2002-03 to 2006-07



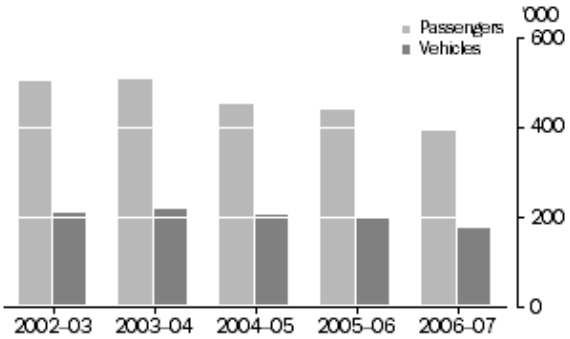
(a) Scheduled domestic and regional services only. Charters are not included.

Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), Airport Traffic Data, 1997-98 to 2006-07

BASS STRAIT FERRY MOVEMENTS

In 2006-07, the TT-Line operated 825 voyages across Bass Strait, carrying 393,700 passengers, 177,800 vehicles and 77,700 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of freight. This was a substantial decrease in the number of voyages, passengers and vehicles from the previous four years due to the sale of Spirit of Tasmania 'III' in September 2006. This vessel began operating in January 2004 between Devonport and Sydney. Current services of Spirit of Tasmania operate between Devonport and Melbourne.

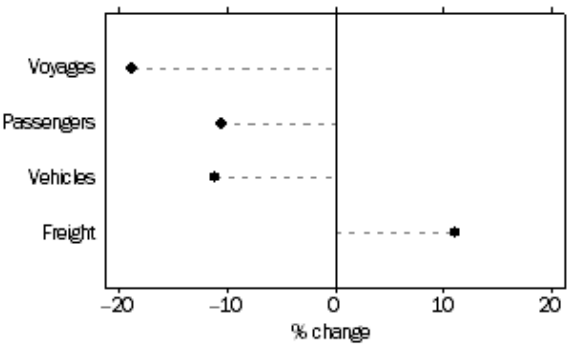
BASS STRAIT FERRY MOVEMENTS



Note: Spirit of Tasmania 'III' operated from January 2004 to September 2006.

Source: TT-Line Annual Reports, 2002-03 to 2006-07

CHANGE IN BASS STRAIT FERRY MOVEMENTS, 2005-06 to 2006-07



Note: Spirit of Tasmania 'III' operated from January 2004 to September 2006.

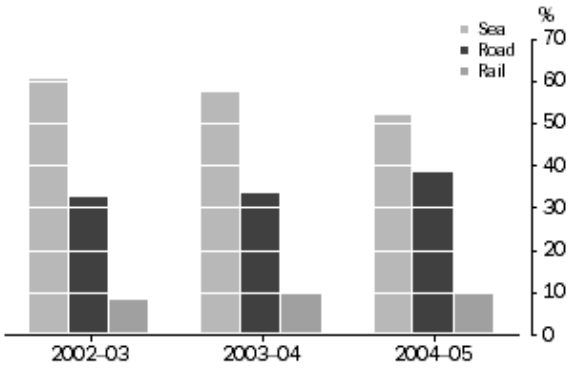
Source: TT-Line Annual Reports, 2002-03 to 2006-07

FREIGHT ACTIVITY

Domestic Freight

In 2004-05, a total of 8.9 billion tonne-kilometres of freight was carried in Tasmania. Most domestic freight was carried by sea (51.7%), followed by road (38.2%) and rail (10.1%). From 2002-03 to 2004-05, the proportion of shipped domestic freight decreased, from 60.4% in 2002-03 to 51.7% in 2004-05. By comparison the proportion of domestic freight carried by road increased, from 32.3% to 38.2% of the total. Domestic freight by rail also increased during the same period, from 8.3% to 10.1% of all domestic freight.

DOMESTIC FREIGHT, Tasmania



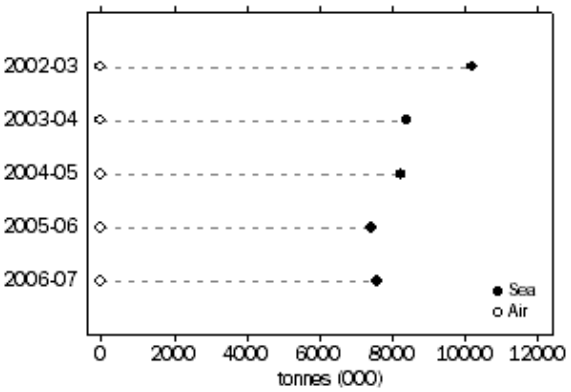
Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE), Australian Transport Statistics Yearbook, 2007

International Freight

In 2006-07, most international freight was carried by sea (99.9%), compared with air (0.1%). Woodchips, iron ore and zinc were the leading commodities exported overseas by sea. At the same time lobster, abalone and cherries were the main Tasmanian produce exported overseas by air.

From 2002-03 to 2006-07 the amount of shipped international freight decreased by 25.5%, from 10.2 million tonnes to 7.6 million tonnes. During the same period, international freight by air increased by 18.5%, from 5,600 tonnes to 6,700 tonnes.

INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT, Tasmania



Source: ABS data available on request

SOURCES

2006 Census of Population and Housing (ABS Basic Community Profile, Tables B29 and B45)

Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE)

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER), Tasmania

Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Tasmania

Department of Treasury and Finance (DOTAF), Tasmania

International Trade Data (ABS data available on request)

Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd

Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB)

Motor Vehicle Census, Australia (ABS cat. no. 9309.0)

Spirit of Tasmania (TT-Line)

Survey of Motor Vehicle Use (ABS cat. no. 9208.0)

Survey of Motor Vehicle Use Data Cubes (ABS cat. no. 9210.0.55.001)

Further information can also be found on the Transport Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Crime and Justice

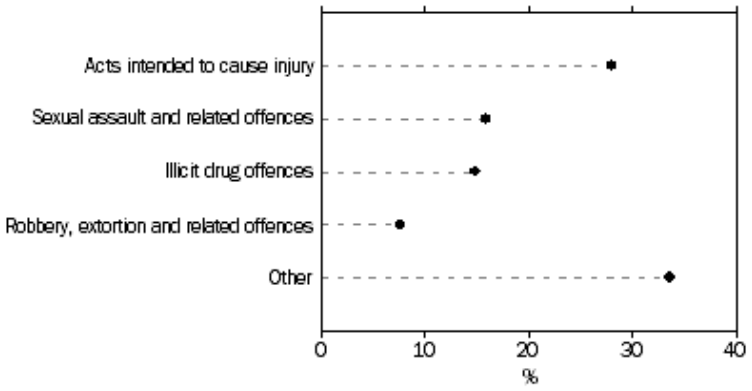
CRIME AND JUSTICE

HIGHER COURTS DEFENDANTS

The following information relates to defendants who were adjudicated, i.e. finalised via a plea of guilty or a decision by a judge as to their guilt or innocence of the final charges laid.

In 2007 in Tasmania, there were 446 defendants adjudicated by higher courts, an increase of 2.1% on the 437 defendants in 2006. 'Acts intended to cause injury' represented 28.0% of total cases, followed by 'sexual assaults and related offences' (15.9%) and 'illicit drug offences' (14.8%).

Case characteristics, Tasmania 2007

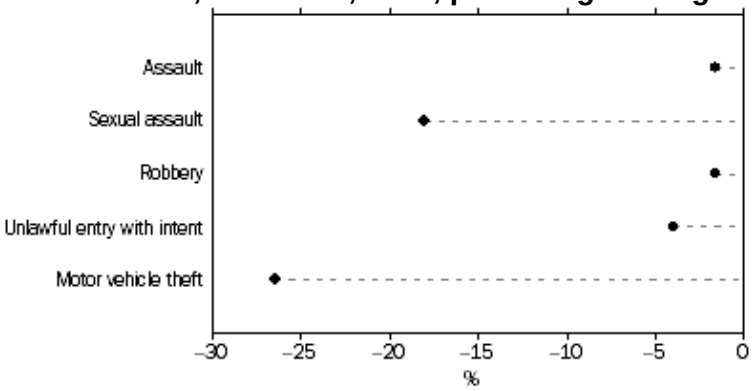


Source: Criminal Courts, Australia (cat. no. 4513.0)

OFFENCE CATEGORIES

In 2007 in Tasmania, most offence categories recorded a decline. The decreases were: motor vehicle theft by 26.4%, sexual assaults by 18.0%, unlawful entry with intent by 4.0%, assaults by 1.6%, and robbery, also by 1.6%. There were 6 cases of murder and 7 cases of attempted murder in 2007 compared to 4 and 6 respectively in 2006. Because the number of murders is usually so small, it is not meaningful to make year to year comparisons, and the data is not included in the graph below.

OFFENCE CATEGORY, Tasmania, 2007, percentage change from 2006

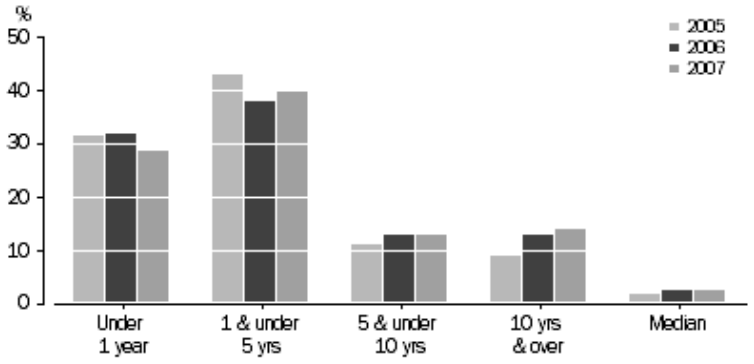


Source: Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia (cat. no. 4510.0)

PRISON SENTENCING CHARACTERISTICS

In 2007, there were 402 prisoners sentenced into detention in Tasmania, an increase of 4.4% on the 385 sentenced in 2006. Of the total sentenced, 40.0% were sentenced to one to five years detention, 28.6% to under one year and 13.7% to ten years and over. The median period of detention was 2.5 years compared to 2.3 years in 2006.

NEW PRISON SENTENCES(a), Tasmania, 2005-2007



(a) Excludes periodic detention and indeterminate sentences.

Source: Prisoners in Australia (cat. no. 4517.0)

PRISONERS

In 2007 in Tasmania, the number of prisoners increased by 3.1% to 528 from 512 in 2006. Of all prisoners, females represented 6.1%, and indigenous persons 12.7%. There were 63.4% prisoners who had a prior imprisonment record and 23.9% of all prisoners were remandees.

PRISONER CHARACTERISTICS

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All prisoners (no.)	453	447	551	512	528
Mean age (years)	33.5	34.0	34.6	34.9	35.0
Females (%)	5.3	4.9	5.1	7.4	6.1
Indigenous (%)	11.7	13.2	12.7	10.4	12.7
Known prior imprisonment (%)	58.7	67.8	65.3	66.8	63.4
Remandees (%)	21.6	15.2	23.8	24.8	23.9

Source: Prisoners in Australia (cat.no. 4517.0)

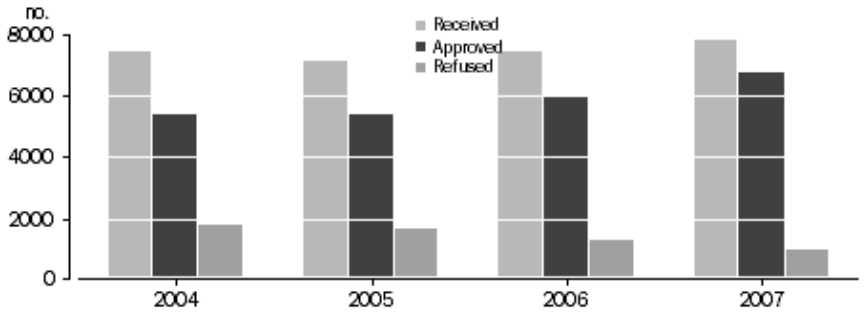
LEGAL AID

The Legal Aid Commission provides legal services to the Tasmanian community through grants of legal aid, free legal advice and minor assistance, duty solicitor services, and community education and information.

In 2007, there were 7,848 applications for legal assistance in Tasmania, an increase of 4.9% on 7,478 requests in 2006. The majority of these 2007 applications (72.0%) were for criminal matters.

The Legal Aid Commission in 2007 approved 6,759 applications, an increase of 12.5% on approved cases in 2006. At the same time, 1,001 cases were refused, representing a decrease of 23.6% from 2006.

APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE, Tasmania, 2004-2007



Source: Legal Aid Commission: Annual Report

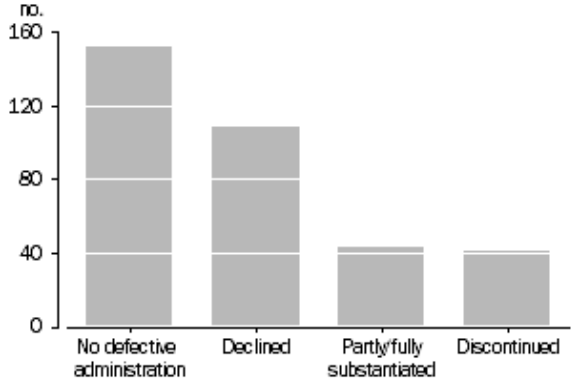
TASMANIAN OMBUDSMAN

The Ombudsman's role is to investigate and help to resolve complaints about the administrative actions of government departments, councils and public authorities.

In 2006-07, the Tasmanian ombudsman received 63 complaints against local governments, a significant decrease on the 166 complaints in 2005-06. Most of the complaints were against local governments in Greater Hobart-Southern region (31), followed by Northern (18) and Mersey-Lyell (14). There were 227 complaints against the Tasmanian state government in 2006-07 compared to 253 in 2005-06.

In 2006-07, the Tasmanian ombudsman closed 344 cases. Of these, 152 were included in the category of 'no defective administration' (cases resolved at either the preliminary inquiry stage or which proceed through to an investigation). The next biggest category of cases (108) was 'declined' (complaints that do not meet the threshold required for acceptance by the Ombudsman). There were 43 cases which were 'partly/fully substantiated' (complaints where the Ombudsman considers that the administrative action of the public authority are not appropriate or reasonable) and 41 cases were 'discontinued' (cases that do not progress because the complainant does not provide additional information to identify the issue or complaint adequately).

CLOSED COMPLAINTS TO OMBUDSMAN by reason for closure, 2006-07



Source: The Office of Tasmanian Ombudsman (Annual Reports)

SOURCES

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) (ABS cat. no. 1216.0)

Corrective Services, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4512.0)

Criminal Courts, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4513.0)

Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania Annual Reports 2004 to 2007

Ombudsman Tasmania Ombudsman Annual Report 2002-2003 to 2006-2007

Prisoners in Australia (ABS cat. no. 4517.0)

Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia (ABS cat. no. 4510.0)

Further information can also be found on the Crime and Justice Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Health

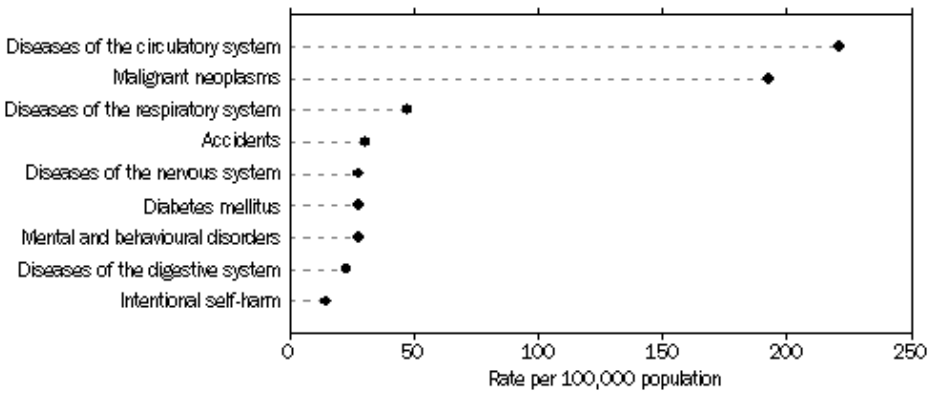
HEALTH

CAUSES OF DEATH

In 2006 the main causes of death in Tasmania included diseases of the circulatory system (1,303 registered deaths), particularly ischaemic heart disease (687 deaths), as well as malignant neoplasms (cancers), with 1,104 registered deaths. Diseases of the circulatory system accounted for over a third (33.3%) of all deaths in Tasmania in 2006, while malignant neoplasms accounted for a further 28.2%.

The standardised death rates for most causes of death have fallen in the last 10 years, with the exception of diabetes mellitus (up from 22.7 deaths per 100,000 to 27.7 deaths per 100,000), mental and behavioural disorders (up from 15.9 deaths per 100,000 population to 27.7 deaths per 100,000), transport accidents (up from 7.6 deaths per 100,000 population to 12.0 deaths per 100,000), and intentional self-harm (up from 11.2 deaths per 100,000 to 14.7 deaths per 100,000).

UNDERLYING CAUSE OF DEATH, Selected causes, standardised death rates, Tasmania, 2006



Source: Causes of Death, Australia (cat. no. 3303.0)

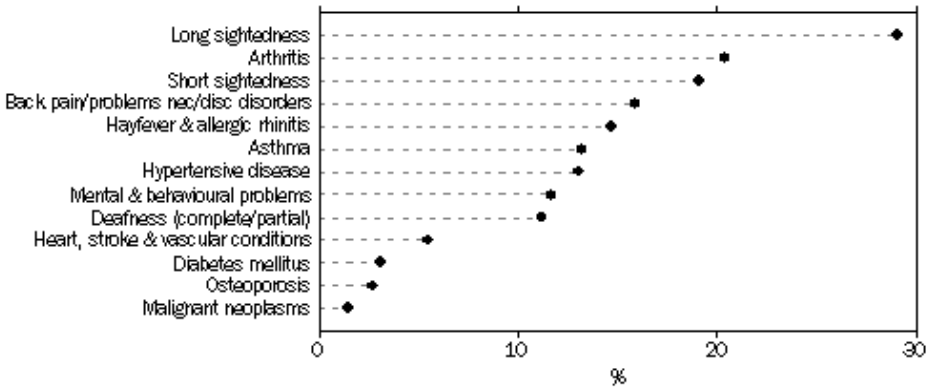
SELECTED LONG TERM CONDITIONS

In 2004–05, the most prevalent long term conditions suffered by Tasmanians were long sightedness (138,000), arthritis (96,600), short sightedness (90,700), and back pain/problems/disc disorders (75,400).

Almost two-thirds (64.0%) of Tasmanians aged 65 years and over suffered from long sightedness, over half (52.0%) suffered from arthritis, almost a third (31.7%) suffered from short sightedness and over a fifth (20.9%) suffered from back pain/disc disorders.

For Tasmanians aged 18–64 years, almost a third (31.4%) suffered from long sightedness, over a fifth suffered from arthritis (21.1%), short sightedness (23.0%), and back pain/disc disorders (20.7%).

SELECTED LONG TERM CONDITIONS, Tasmania, 2004–05



Source: National Health Survey: Summary of Results; State Tables (cat. no. 4362.0)

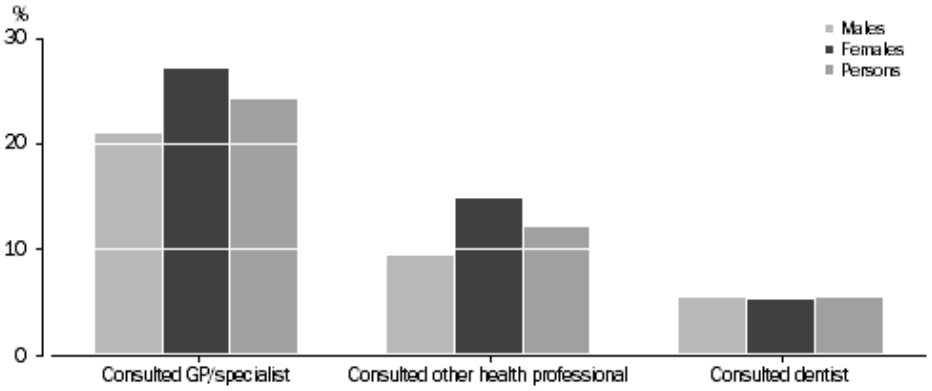
ACTION TAKEN FOR HEALTH

In 2004–05, 41.6% of Tasmanians reported that they had taken some form of action for their health in the two weeks prior to interview, with 24.1% reporting that they had consulted a General Practitioner (GP)/specialist, 12.1% reporting that they had consulted other health professionals, and 5.4% reporting that they had consulted a dentist.

Around 32,500 (6.9% of Tasmanians) reported that they had days away from work/study, with 57,800 (12.2% of Tasmanians) reporting that they had other days of reduced activity in the two weeks prior to interview.

Almost 10% more females (46.1% of all females) reported having taken some form of action for their health than males (36.9% of all males). Around 27.1% of Tasmanian females reported having consulted a GP/specialist in the two weeks prior to interview compared with 21.0% of males; 14.8% of females reported having consulted other health professionals compared with 9.5% of males; while the percentage of males and females who reported having consulted a dentist were similar, at 5.3% for females and 5.5% for males.

SELECTED ACTION TAKEN FOR HEALTH, TASMANIA, 2004–05



Source: National Health Survey: Summary of Results; State Tables (cat. no. 4362.0)

HEALTH RISK BEHAVIOURS

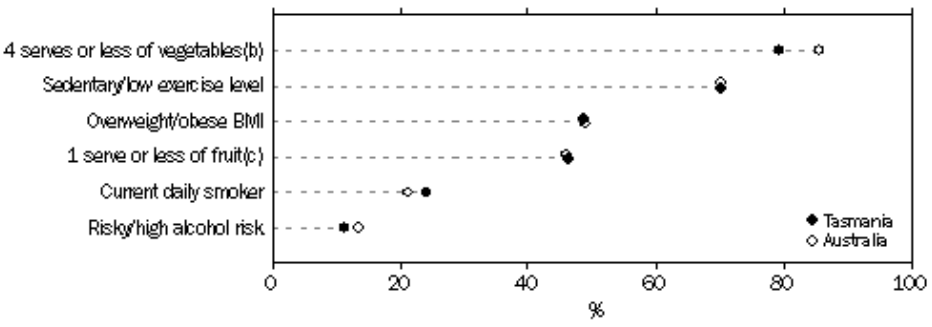
The 2004–05 National Health Survey found that Tasmanians exhibit a number of health risk factors, relating to alcohol consumption, body mass index (BMI), exercise level, and smoking status.

The bulk of the Tasmanian adult population, aged 18 years and over, ate 4 serves or less of vegetables per day: 79.9% of 18–64 year olds, and 77.3% of those aged 65 years and over. Less than half (48.6%) of people aged 18–64 years reported that they ate 1 or less serves of fruit per day, while 36.1% of those aged 65 years and over indicated this to be the case.

Around 68.6% of people aged 18–64 years reported that they were sedentary or had low exercise levels, with 78.3% of those aged 65 years and over indicating this to be the case.

Around 48.3% of Tasmanians aged 18–64 years and 51.0% of those aged 65 years and over were assessed as being overweight.

HEALTH RISK BEHAVIOURS(a), 2004–05



(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.
(b) Includes those who did not eat vegetables.
(c) Includes those who did not eat fruit.

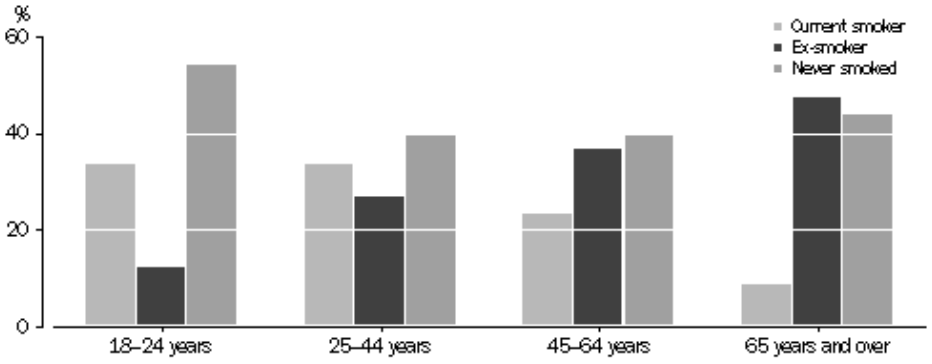
Source: National Health Survey: Summary of Results; State Tables (cat. no. 4362.0)

SMOKING

In 2004–05, 25.5% of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over reported that they were current smokers, with 94.7% of those indicating that they were daily smokers. A further 32.3% reported that they were ex-smokers, while 42.2% reported that they had never smoked.

Around 27.5% of Tasmanian males aged 18 years and over reported that they were current smokers while 23.5% of Tasmanian females aged 18 years and over indicated that they were current smokers.

SMOKING STATUS(a), 2004–05



(a) Persons aged 18 years and over.

Source: National Health Survey: Summary of Results; State Tables (cat. no. 4362.0)

ALCOHOL

The 2004–05 National Health Survey found that 51.1% of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over reported low risk alcohol consumption, i.e. 50 mLs or less average daily consumption of alcohol for males in the 7 days prior to interview and 25 mLs or less for females. A further 7.0% of Tasmanians reported risky alcohol consumption, i.e. more than 50 mLs, up to 75 mLs average daily consumption of alcohol for males and more than 25 mLs, up to 50 mLs for females. Around 4.4% of Tasmanians reported high risk alcohol consumption, i.e. more than 75 mLs average daily consumption of alcohol for males and more than 50 mLs for females.

Around 20.2% of Tasmanian males aged 18 years and over reported that they had last consumed alcohol in the period one week to less than 12 months prior to interview, with a further 7.6% males who reported that they had last consumed alcohol 12 months or longer prior to interview.

Around 29.0% of Tasmanian females aged 18 years and over reported that they had last consumed alcohol in the period one week to less than 12 months prior to interview, with a further 17.7% reporting that they had last consumed alcohol 12 months or longer prior to interview.

BODY MASS INDEX

Body Mass Index was calculated from self-reported height and weight information collected in the 2004–05 National Health Survey. The survey revealed that 37.8% of Tasmanian adult males were considered to be overweight, with a further 17.0% considered obese. The survey also revealed that 25.9% of Tasmanian adult females were considered to be overweight, with a further 17.2% considered obese.

EXERCISE LEVEL

In 2004–05, more than two thirds (70.4%) of Tasmanians aged 18 years and over reported their level of exercise to be sedentary or low; around 34.1% of adult Tasmanians reported their level of exercise as 'sedentary', a further 36.3% reported their level of exercise as 'low'. Another 24.2% indicated their exercise level as 'moderate' and around 5.4% reported their exercise level as 'high'.

DISABILITY STATUS

The 2003 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers found that around 23.5% of Tasmanians reported some form of disability. Disability was defined as any limitation, restriction or impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months and restricts everyday activities. Examples ranged from hearing loss which requires the use of a hearing aid, to difficulty dressing due to arthritis, to advanced dementia requiring constant help and supervision. There was little difference in the percentage of males and females with a disability (around 23.2% and 23.8% respectively).

Approximately 18.9% of males and 21.6% of females in the 2003 survey reported having either a core activity limitation (includes communication, mobility and self care), and/or a schooling or employment limitation.

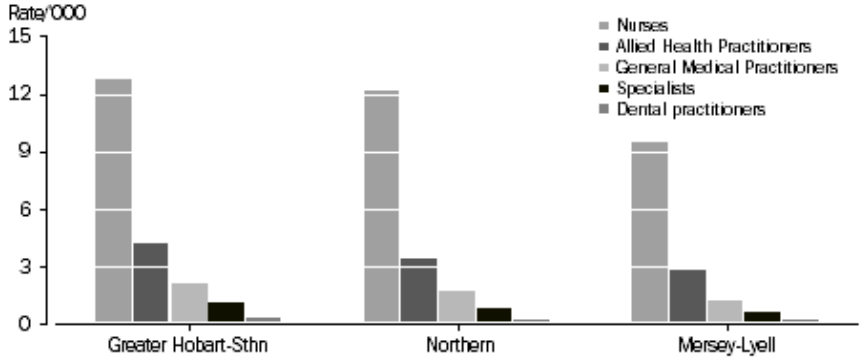
SELECTED HEALTH OCCUPATIONS

The 2006 Census of Population and Housing revealed that there were 5,628 nurses in Tasmania, with 90.1% of them being female. The Greater Hobart and Southern Statistical Divisions (SDs) had 53.0% of the state's nursing population, while Northern SD had 29.0%, and Mersey-Lyell SD had 18.0%. To relate this to the distribution of the State's population, there were 12.7 nurses per thousand people in the Greater Hobart and Southern SDs, 12.2 in the Northern SD and 9.5 in Mersey-Lyell SD.

There were 845 general medical practitioners (GPs) in Tasmania. Some 57.5% of GPs in the state were located in the Greater Hobart and Southern SDs, while a further 27.2% of GPs were located in Northern SD, and another 15.3% of GPs were located in Mersey-Lyell SD. This equated to a rate of 2.1 GPs per thousand people in the Greater Hobart and Southern SDs, 1.7 in the Northern SD and 1.2 in Mersey-Lyell.

Dental practitioners totalled 134 in Tasmania, with 59.7% located in the Greater Hobart and Southern SDs, 23.9% located in Northern SD, and a further 16.4% located in Mersey-Lyell SD. The rate per thousand was 0.3 in Greater Hobart and Southern SDs, 0.2 in the Northern SD and 0.2 in Mersey-Lyell.

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BY REGION(a), Tasmania, 2006



(a) Rate per thousand population

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2006

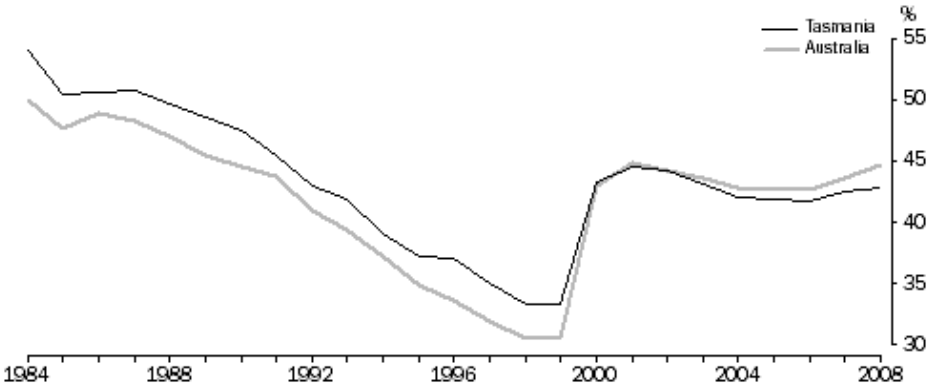
PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE MEMBERSHIP

At June 2008, 42.9% of Tasmanians had private health insurance membership in Tasmania, compared with 44.7% for Australia.

In 1984 private health insurance membership in Tasmania was 236,000 persons (53.9%), while Australia's membership totalled 7,784,000 persons (50.0%). Private health insurance

membership in Tasmania and Australia as a whole declined steadily from the late 1980s to 1999. The Private Health Insurance Incentives Scheme Subsidy was introduced in Australia in 1997 and was replaced by a 30% rebate on premiums in January 1999. Following the introduction of the rebate in 1999, private medical insurance membership in Tasmania rose by 10.0% at June of the following year (from 33.3% as at June 1999 to 43.3% as at June 2000). This compared to a 12.4% increase for Australia (from 30.6% as at June 1999 to 43.0% as at June 2000).

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE MEMBERSHIP



Source: Membership Statistics, 2008, Private Health Insurance Administration Council

SELECTED PRESCRIBED MEDICATION

The rates of Tasmanians taking medications covered in the general schedule under the Prescribed Benefits Scheme in 2006–07 were highest for cholesterol-lowering medications such as atorvastatin and simvastatin. The Tasmanian rate for taking atorvastatin (382 per 1,000 persons) was lower than the Australian rate (444 per 1,000 persons) while the Tasmanian rate for taking simvastatin (347 per 1,000 persons) was higher than the Australian rate (274 per 1,000 persons).

The rate of Tasmanians taking esomeprazole to reduce gastric acid production was 283 per 1,000 persons, which was higher than the Australian rate of 193 per 1,000 persons.

IMMUNISATION

To be fully vaccinated means that children should have received the full schedule of vaccinations appropriate to their age, as determined by the National Immunisation Program. As at June 2008, data from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register revealed that 91.0% of Tasmanian children aged 12 months to less than 15 months were fully vaccinated, compared with 91.2% for Australia. Rates for children aged 24 months to less than 27 months were higher (93.4% for Tasmania and 92.8% for Australia respectively), while rates for children aged 60 months to less than 63 months were lower (89.8% for Tasmania and 87.3% for Australia respectively).

MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS

The 2004–05 National Health Survey found that over two-thirds (67.2%) of Tasmanians experienced low levels of psychological distress (240,500 persons), while 20.1% reported moderate levels of stress (71,900 persons). About 8.8% (31,500 persons) reported high levels of stress. Of those reporting high levels of stress, people aged 25-44 years accounted for 41.0%, followed by those aged 45-64 years (28.3%). Around 3.8% (13,700 persons) of Tasmanians reported a very high level of stress. Of those, people aged 45-64 years accounted for 43.8%, followed by those aged 25-44 years (34.3%).

ABS SOURCES

Australian Demographic Statistics (ABS cat. no. 3101.0)

Causes of Death, Australia (ABS cat. no. 3303.0)

Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003 (ABS cat. no. 4430.0)

Involvement in Organised Sport and Physical Activity, Australia (ABS cat. no. 6285.0)

Medicare Australia, *Australian Childhood Immunisation Register statistics*, *Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule Item Reports*

National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2004-05 (ABS cat. no. 4364.0)

National Health Survey: Summary of Results; State Tables, 2004-05 (ABS cat. no. 4362.0)

Private Health Insurance Administration Council 2008, *Membership Statistics*

Further information can also be found on the Health Statistics Theme Page and the Census Statistics Theme Page on the ABS website.

Environment

ENVIRONMENT

TASMANIA AND THE ENVIRONMENT

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 'climate change' refers to change which is directly or indirectly attributed to human behaviours. Such behaviours have led to the altering of Earth's atmosphere in addition to expected, natural climate variability over time (United Nations - UN 1992).

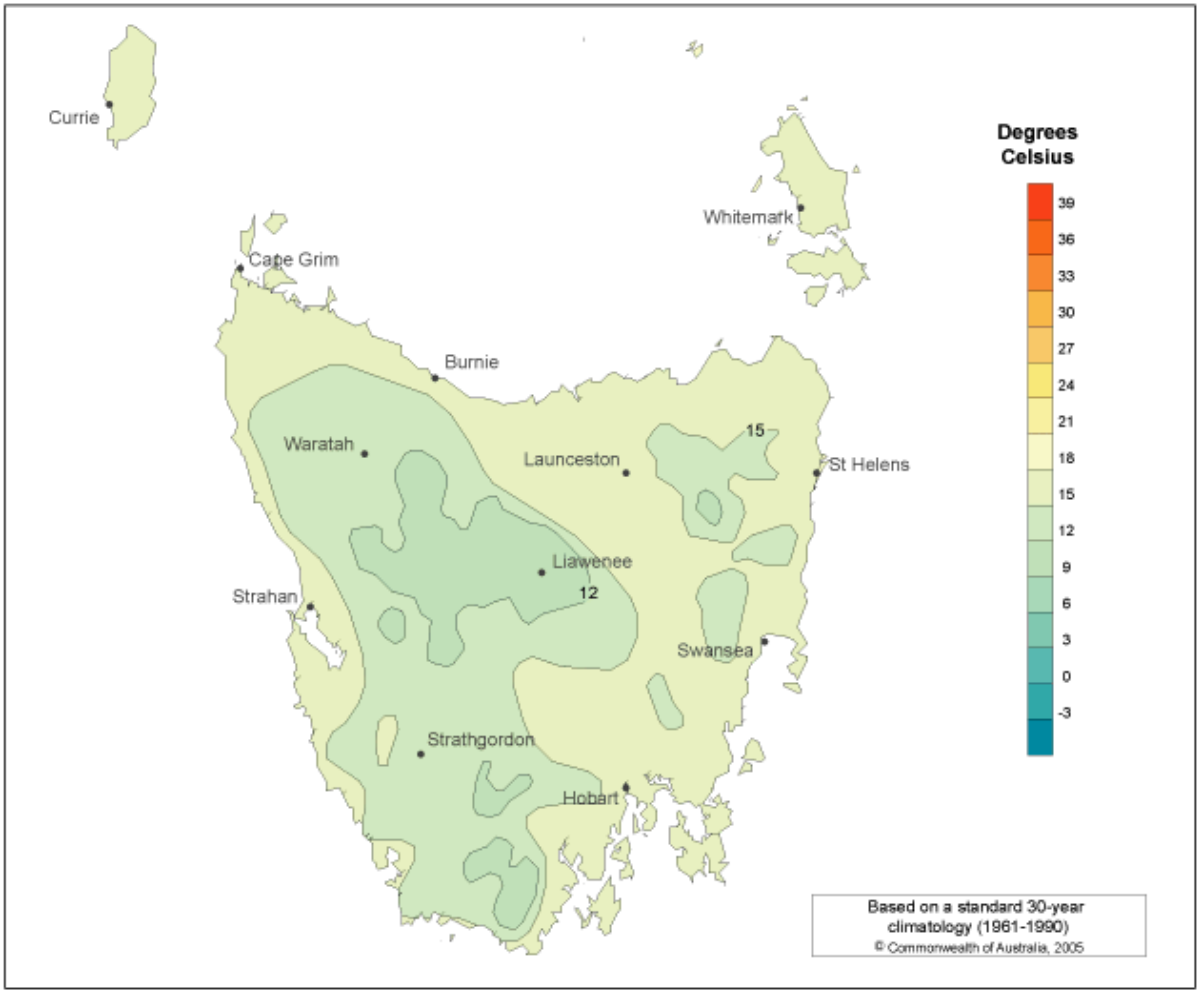
For Tasmania, it is difficult to predict what the effects of climate change will be in the future. Global climate models provide only one or two points of information about Tasmania (The Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre - ACE CRC 2007). According to the Garnaut Climate Change Review (Garnaut R 2008), as a result of climate change, Tasmania will begin to experience small changes in climate resulting in warmer weather, increasing storm events and decreased livestock capacity.

CLIMATE

In Tasmania, tree ring records have shown major changes over the past 3,000 years in the intensity of climate variability, with the last change calculated to have been around 1900 (Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation and Bureau of Meteorology - CSIRO and BoM 2007). Over the last century, Tasmania's state-wide average temperature has risen by

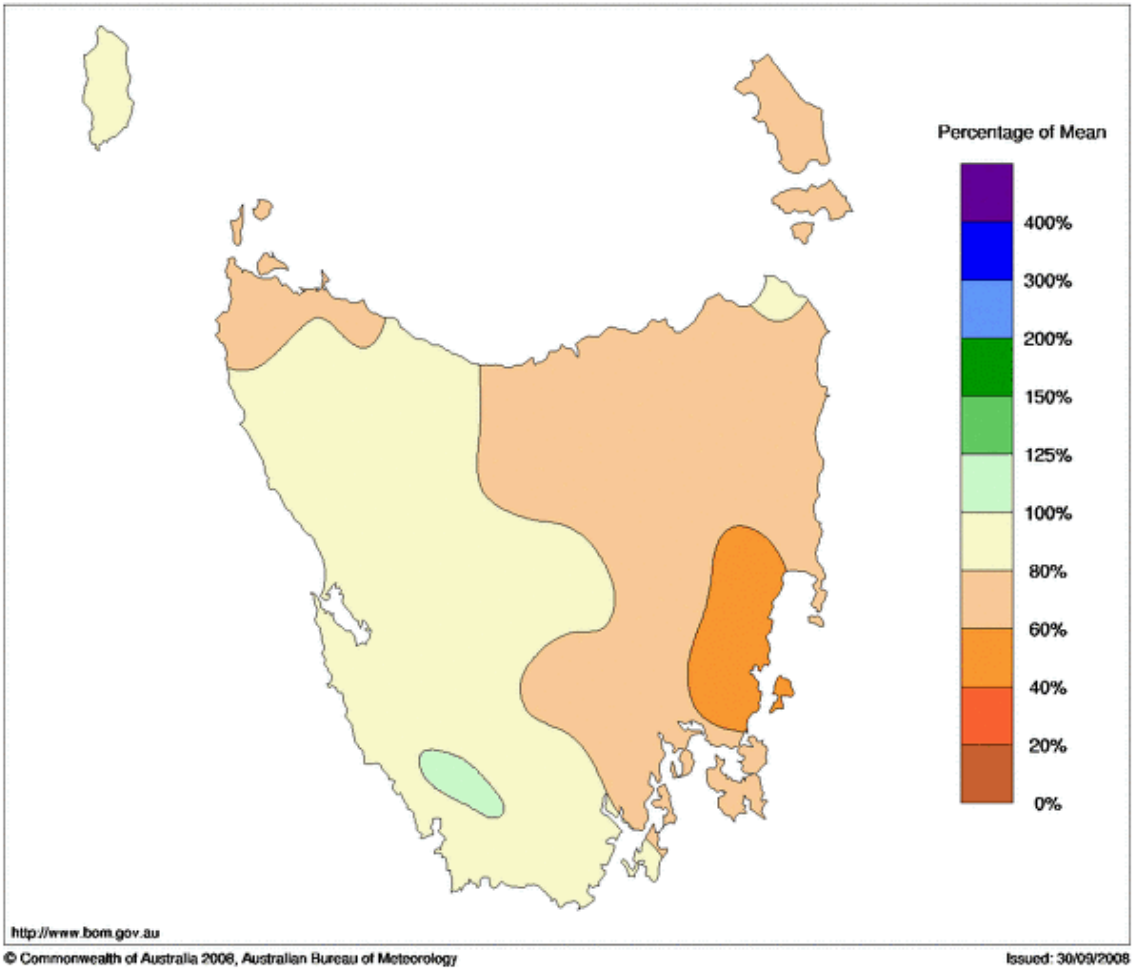
nearly 1^{o}C. Tasmania has experienced its warmest years in recent times; 2007 was the second warmest year on record, with the mean temperature 0.77^{o}C above normal. Rainfall totals in 2007 were below average, particularly along the east coast and southern midlands (BoM 2008).

MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE, Tasmania, annual to 2008



Source: Bureau of Meteorology, 2008

PERCENTAGE OF MEAN RAINFALL, Tasmania, 1 Jan-31 Oct 2008



Source: Bureau of Meteorology, 2008

A CSIRO evaluation of 13 climate change models (where Tasmania and Victoria were considered as one region) predicted that the extent and frequency of extremely hot and dry years will increase in the future. More specifically, it is projected that between 2010-2040, extremely hot years will be experienced by approximately 75% of the region every 1.3 years on average, 10% will experience years of extremely low rainfall approximately every 12 years, and that by 2030, 11% of the region will experience extremely low soil moisture every 9 years (CSIRO and BoM 2008).

WATER

With increasing temperature and decreasing rainfall trends, it follows that water availability and consumption patterns will also be affected by climate change.

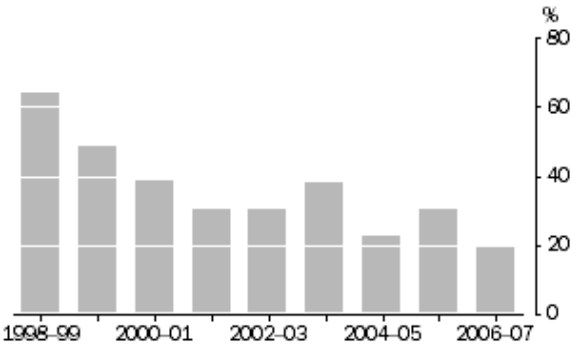
Water Consumption

In 1999, Hydro Tasmania's water storage was at 64.1% of capacity (Hydro-electric Corporation 2002). In June 2007, storage levels had reduced to 19.3% of capacity, with a low of 16.9% in May 2007. Such a fall, to below 20% of total capacity, has not occurred since 1967, which at that time led to the restriction of power and the need to locate over 100 megawatts of power from other generation sources. Such conditions over the 2006-07 financial year led to notable water, environmental and energy management issues for Tasmania's largest energy producer (Hydro-electric Corporation 2007).

Tasmania's water consumption increased 4.1% to 434 gigalitres (GL) from 2000-01 to 2004-05. In 2004-05, agriculture was the largest consumer of water, accounting for 59.4% of all water consumed, followed by households (16.0%), and manufacturing (11.3%). Water consumption by

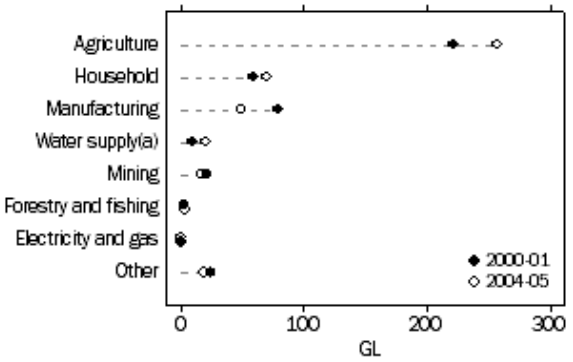
agriculture increased 16.3%, from 221.6 GL in 2000-01 to 257.8 GL in 2004-05. During the same period, household water consumption increased 17.1%, from 59.3 GL to 69.4 GL, while manufacturing consumed 38.2% less water, decreasing from 79 GL to 49 GL.

HYDRO TASMANIA, Percentage of water storage capacity



Source: Hydro Tasmania Annual Report, 2002-03, 2006, 2007, Hydro-electric Corporation

WATER CONSUMPTION, Tasmania, By industry

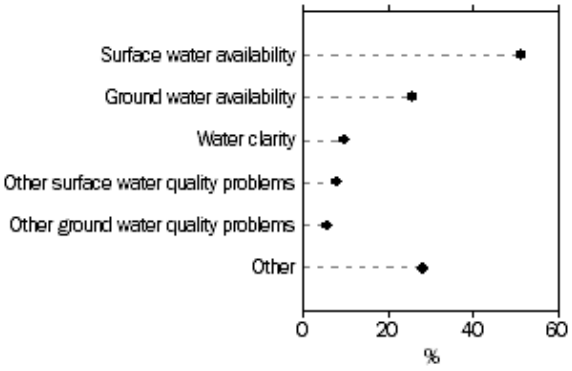


(a) Includes sewerage and drainage services.

Source: Water Account, Australia, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4610.0)

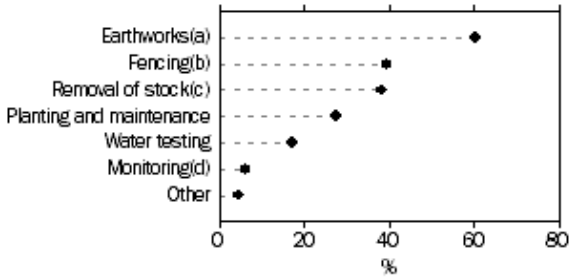
In 2004-05, 28.4% of Tasmanian agricultural businesses reported water issues, compared with 38.1% nationally. Surface water availability was the greatest issue (51.3%). Over one third (34.3%) of Tasmanian agricultural businesses reported initiating water activities, compared with 32.9% nationally. Earthworks were the main activities undertaken (60.3%).

REPORTED AGRICULTURAL WATER ISSUES, Tasmania, 2004-05



Source: Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms Reissue, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4620.0)

REPORTED AGRICULTURAL WATER ACTIVITIES, Tasmania, 2004-05



(a) Includes drains and water pumping.
(b) To protect riparian zones.
(c) From waterways.
(d) Of ground-water table.

Source: Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms Reissue, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4620.0)

COASTAL IMPACT

Sea Level

An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on past analyses of changes in sea level concluded that, from tide gauge data, the average sea level rise across the world during the last century was between 1.0 to 2.0 mm per year. This average rate of rising is higher than during the nineteenth century (Church, Gregory, Huybrechts, Kuhn, Lambeck, Nhuan, Qin and Woodworth 2001).

From observations of the sea level at Port Arthur between 1841 and 2002, an average yearly sea level rise, relative to the land, of approximately 0.8 mm per year has been recorded. Average sea level increase at Port Arthur, as a result of the increased volume of the ocean, is estimated to be

approximately 1.0 mm per year (Hunter, Coleman and Pugh 2003). This indicates a sea level rise in excess of 13.0 cm between 1841 and 2002 (Hunter, Coleman and Pugh 2002).

Sea Temperature

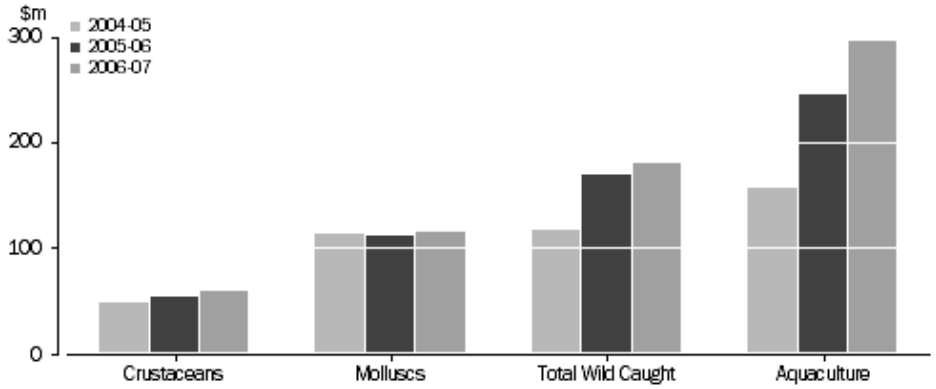
Hydrological records from Maria Island dating back to 1944, indicate that the sea surface temperature has risen as a result of the increased strength and southern extension of the East Australian Current (Harris, Nilsson, Clementson and Thomas 1987). Analyses between 1944 and 1998 reveal that the sea temperature has increased by over 1^{o}C (Crawford, Edgar and Cresswell 2000).

Fisheries/Aquaculture

It is known that increasing average water temperatures in coastal regions will most likely affect aquaculture production (Tasmanian Climate Change Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet 2008). In particular, Tasmania's heavy reliance on the success of salmonid production will be of concern, since Atlantic salmon - which accounts for the majority of salmonid products - are already near their high temperature limit in southern Tasmania (Pittock B 2003).

The gross value of total fisheries production has grown 46.8% from 2004-05 to 2006-07, creating $475m for the Tasmanian economy in 2006-07. Between 2002-03 and 2006-07, farmed salmonid production increased by 130% ($154m) in value to $272m, accounting for 57% of Tasmania's gross value of fisheries production (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) 2008).

FISHERIES PRODUCTION, Gross value, Tasmania



Source: ABARE, Australian Fisheries Statistics, 2007, 2008

AGRICULTURAL IMPACT

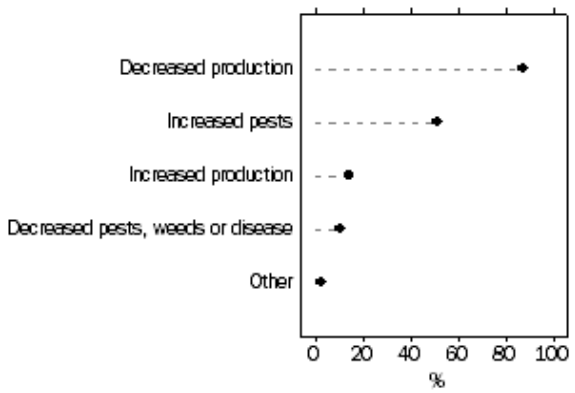
Climate

In 2006-07, of those agricultural businesses which believed the climate affecting their holding had changed, the largest proportion that modified their management practices as a result was in the North West NRM region (74.1%), followed by the Northern region (72.8%) and the Southern region (69.6%). Overall, Tasmania has a lower proportion of agricultural businesses modifying practices (72.3%) than the national average (75.4%). In regard to the impact of climate change on their holding, Tasmanians most commonly reported decreased production and increased pest, weeds or disease occurrences.

Of those agricultural businesses which made modifications to their management practices, most (64.4%) changed the intensity of cropping and/or grazing, followed by modification of irrigation practices (47.8%), and time of planting and/or harvesting (32.3%). Less than a quarter (22.5%)

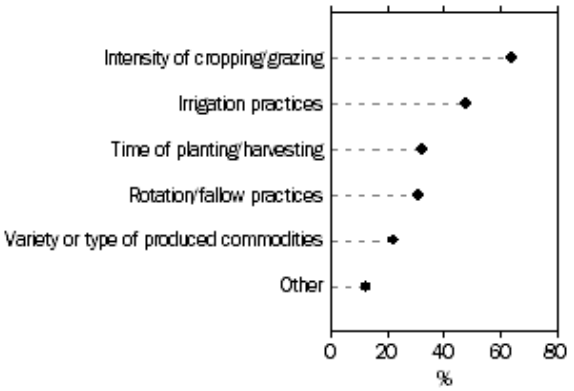
modified the type or variety of commodity they produced.

REPORTED IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, Tasmania, 2006-07



Source: Climate and Australian Farms (cat. no. 4625.0)

REPORTED MODIFIED LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, Tasmania, 2006-07



Source: Climate and Australian Farms (cat. no. 4625.0)

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

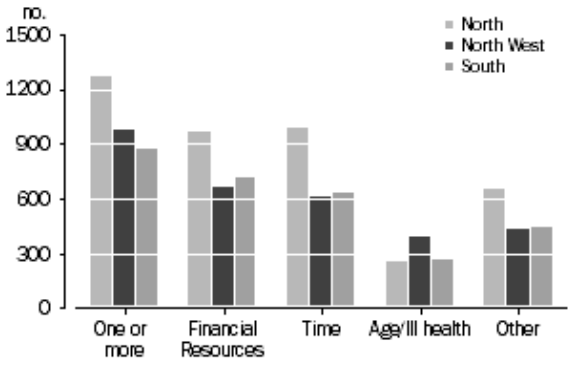
Changes to a region's climate impact on its natural resources. NRM is the management of native vegetation, weed, pest, land, soil and water.

In 2006-07 the proportion of agricultural businesses in Tasmania reporting NRM related problems on their properties was 83.4%, which was lower than the national level (86.7%). Northern Tasmania showed a slightly higher proportion of agricultural businesses with NRM related problems (86.9%) than Southern Tasmania (86.3%), followed by the North West (77.6%).

65.5% of Tasmanian agricultural business reported barriers to improving NRM on their holding which was below the national level (71.0%).

The most commonly reported barrier to improving NRM on an agricultural holding across Australia was lack of financial resources. This was reported by 75.4% of Tasmanian agricultural businesses and 78.9% of all Australian agricultural businesses as one of the barriers.

BARRIERS TO IMPROVING NRM, Tasmania, By NRM region, 2006-07



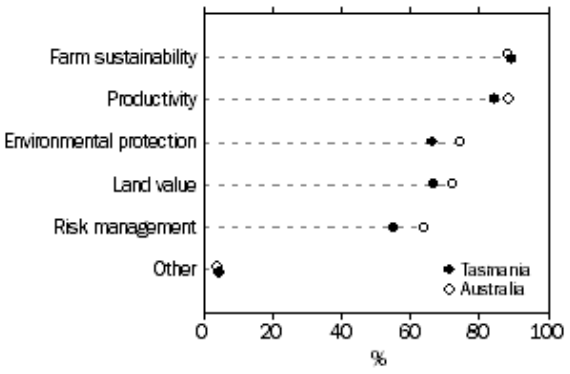
Source: Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2006-07 (cat. no. 4620.0)

In 2006-07, 63.4% of Tasmanian agricultural businesses reported improving NRM practices on their holding compared to 65.8% nationally. The most reported reason for improving NRM practices in Tasmania was farm sustainability (89.5%) followed closely by increased productivity

(84.4%).

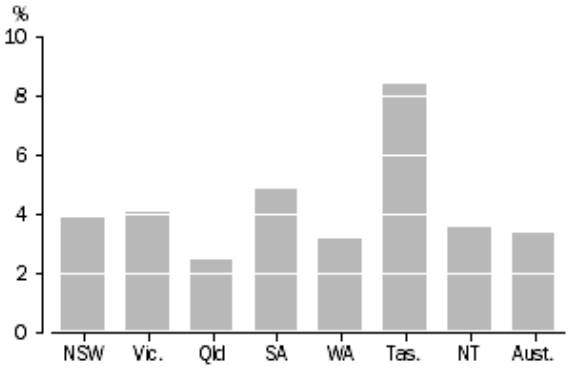
Of the 1.7 million hectares of agricultural land in Tasmania in 2006-07, 8.4% was set aside for conservation or protection purposes. Nationally, only 3.4% of Australia's 425 million hectares of agricultural land was set aside. However, 14.7% of Tasmanian agricultural properties took part in Landcare programs and 21.2% participated in some kind of conservation program in 2006-07.

REASONS FOR IMPROVING NRM PRACTICES, 2006-07



Source: Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2006-07 (cat. no. 4620.0)

PROPORTION OF LAND SET ASIDE FOR CONSERVATION, 2006-07



Source: Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2006-07 (cat. no. 4620.0)

ENERGY

Consumption

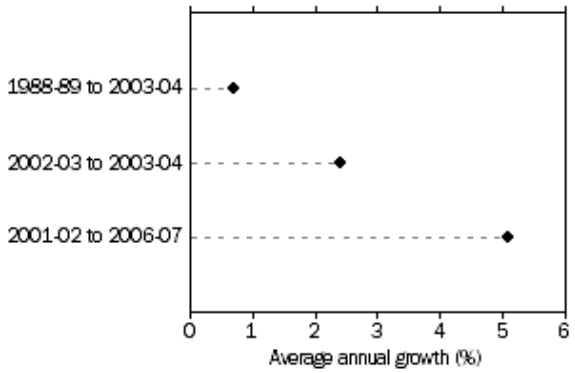
Between 2001-02 and 2006-07, Tasmania's average annual growth in energy consumption was 5.1%, compared with 2.4% for Australia. Energy consumption growth for 2006-07 alone was 4.9% in Tasmania and 2.3% nationally (ABARE 2008a).

Tasmania's largest energy consumer in 1973-74 was manufacturing; consuming 30.3 petajoules (PJ) of the state's total 71.9 PJ consumed. This trend was the same nationally with manufacturing consuming 918.0 PJ of the total 2 615.2 PJ of all energy consumed (ABARE 2008b).

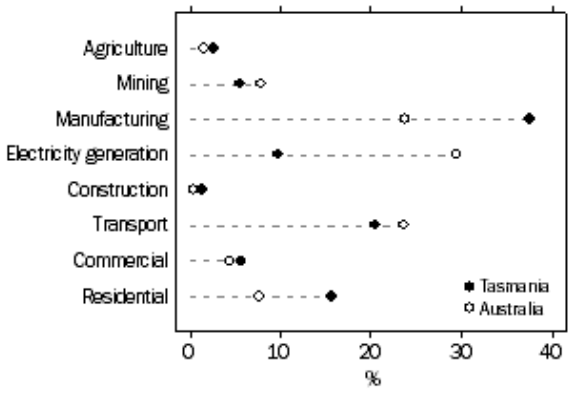
In 2006-07, manufacturing remained the largest consumer of energy in Tasmania, accounting for 47.2 PJ of the state's 125.9 PJ energy consumption. At a national level, electricity generation consumed the largest portion of all energy consumption, accounting for 1,694.9 PJ of the total 5,769.8 PJ (ABARE 2008b). This is largely explained by mainland Australia's current heavy reliance on the burning of coal for electricity generation.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION, Tasmania

ENERGY CONSUMPTION, by industry, 2006-07



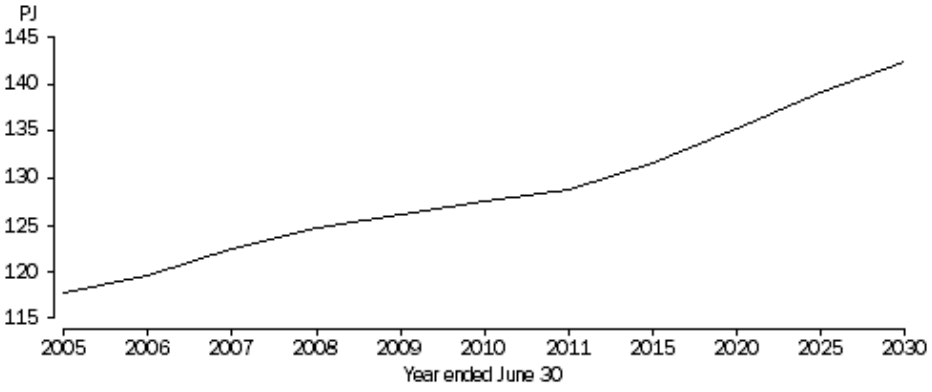
Source: ABARE, Energy Update, 2004, 2005



Source: ABARE, Energy Consumption in Australia, by Industry, 2008

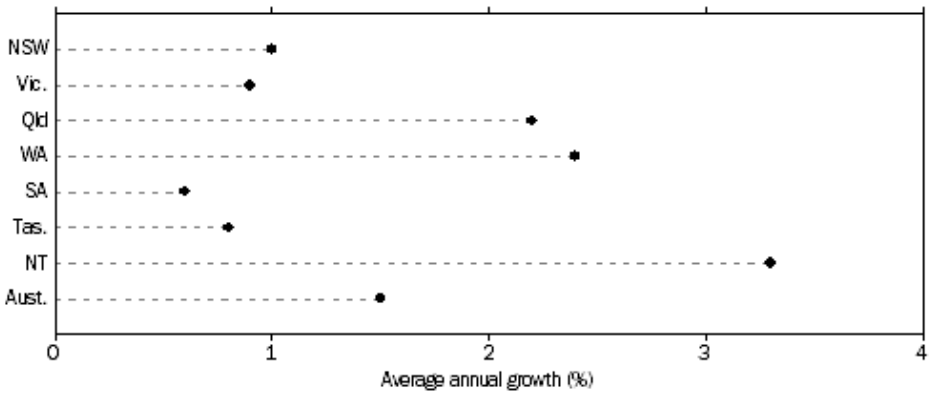
Between 2004-05 to 2029-30, Tasmania's primary energy consumption is projected to grow, on average, 0.8% annually and Australia's consumption is expected to grow 1.5% annually (Cuevas-Cubria and Riwoe, 2006).

PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION PROJECTIONS, Tasmania



Source: ABARE, Australian Energy National and State Projections 2029-30, 2006

PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION PROJECTIONS, Australia, 2004-05 to 2029-30



Source: ABARE, Australian Energy National and State Projections 2029-30, 2006

GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

Greenhouse gases are those constituents of the atmosphere that absorb and re-emit infra-red radiation (UN 1992).

State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories attempt to measure the amount of greenhouse gas (and their precursors) which is released into the atmosphere. In 2006, Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions totalled 8,547 gigagrams (Gg) of carbon dioxide equivalent which is approximately 1.5% of Australia's emissions total of 576,035Gg (Australian Government Department of Climate Change, 2008d).

Between 1990 and 2006, carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions in Tasmania decreased 25.2% while at a national level, emissions increased 4.2% over the same timeframe (Australian Government Department of Climate Change, 2008e).

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, Tasmania

Source: Australian National Greenhouse Accounts, 2008, Department of Climate Change

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, Australia

Source: Australian National Greenhouse Accounts, 2008, Department of Climate Change

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American Geophysical Union:Hunter J, Coleman R and Pugh D, 2003, The Sea Level at Port Arthur, Tasmania, from 1941 to the Present, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 30(7), pp.54-1-4.

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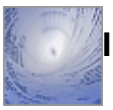
Further information can also be found on the Environment and Energy Statistics Theme Page and the Agriculture Statistics Theme Page of the ABS website.

Index of Feature Articles



INDEX OF FEATURE ARTICLES

interpreting statistical information, and lists some of the more common pitfalls and how to avoid them.

30/01/09| Tasmania's unemployment rate at record low: A discussion of recent trends in Tasmanian labour force statistics, which also explains some of the more common labour force concepts and definitions in understandable language. Uses data from the ABS monthly and quarterly Labour Force surveys.

31/10/08| People with a Need for Assistance in Tasmania, 2006: Using data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, this article looks at the Tasmanian population needing assistance with daily core activities, and analyses their age and geographic distribution, living arrangements, home ownership levels, labour force status and occupation types.
31/07/08 | Adult Literacy in Tasmania, 2006: Examines the Tasmanian results from the 2006 Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, which collected and assessed information on the literacy skills of Australians across a range of literacy domains: prose literacy; document literacy; numeracy; and problem solving.
30/04/08 | Ageing in Tasmania, 2006: Australia has an ageing population, with Tasmania the oldest and fastest ageing of the States and Territories. This article explores what we know about Tasmania's ageing population through analysing a selected range of indicators from the 2006 Population Census.
31/01/08 | Tasmanian Housing Indicators: This article presents a range of housing indicators for Tasmania, drawn from a variety of ABS sources. It aims to illustrate the wider economic influences behind recent movements in the supply, demand and price of housing in Tasmania.

About this Release

A compendium of summary statistical information about Tasmania. Information is presented by topic, with more detailed data in Excel spreadsheets. Contains summary commentary, tables, maps and graphs. Some non-ABS and regional data is also included. Topics covered include labour force, wages and prices, tourism, finance, state accounts, population, household and family characteristics, education, health and environment.

Replaces: Statistics, Tasmania (1384.6) and Regional Statistics, Tasmania (1362.6).

What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate? (Feature Article)

What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate?

Australians regularly provide the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with information about their lives: how and where they live, their family structure and activities, how they earn their

money and what they spend it on. This wealth of information enables us to put together a picture of the nation. One of the ABS' corporate objectives is to assist and encourage the 'informed and increased use of statistics'. By promoting access and improving understanding and use of these statistics, the ABS aims to improve statistical literacy in the community.

What is statistical literacy?

According to H.G. Wells, statistical thinking will one day be as necessary for efficient citizenship as the ability to read and write... and that day has arrived! Statistics are collected on most aspects of Australian life. They capture vital information about our economic performance, the well-being of our population and the condition of our environment. They help form the basis of our democracy and provide us with essential knowledge to assess the health and progress of our society. We rely on those statistics being visible, accessible and robust, and we rely on statistically literate people making best use of the information to determine our future action, by presenting clear and convincing arguments and developing 'evidence-based policy' to guide our decision making.

We are surrounded by facts and figures everyday. News headlines regularly frame statistical stories:

- "Traffic offences have risen by 25% over the last five years."
- "One in five of Australia's part-time workers want and are available to work more hours than they currently do."
- "Cat Stevens was the unmistakable voice of a generation. An incredible one in two households in Australia had a Cat Stevens album in the seventies."

Statistics tell interesting stories and enable us to make sense of the world. They are indicators of change and allow meaningful comparisons to be made. In order to make sound judgements, it is essential that we are equipped with the very best knowledge for research, planning and decision-making purposes. While it may be the issues rather than the statistics that grab people's attention, it should be recognised that it is the statistics that inform the issues. Statistical literacy, then, is the ability to accurately understand, interpret and evaluate the data that inform these issues.

Back to top

Why is it important to be statistically literate?

The provision of accurate and authoritative statistical information strengthens our society. It provides a basis for decisions to be made on public policy, such as determining electoral boundaries and where to locate schools and hospitals. It also allows businesses to know their market, grow their business, and improve their marketing strategies by targeting their activities appropriately.

In today's information-rich society, being statistically literate will give you an edge. It will make you more attractive to future employers and put you ahead of your competitors in the workplace. Broadening your statistical knowledge will enable you to engage in discussions and decision-making processes with authority, accuracy and integrity.

Back to top

Are you statistically literate?

If you are uncomfortable with using statistics, you are not alone. Many people shy away from using statistics because of their perceived complexity. People may:

- not know where to look to find the information they need;
- be unfamiliar with the terminology; or
- lack confidence in their ability to make sense of the numbers.

You do not have to be an expert at maths to work with statistics. Numeracy implies a basic competence in mathematics, a basic understanding of numbers and figures. It is certainly a prerequisite to being statistically literate, but statistical literacy is not about being adept at formulating or understanding the methodology behind the numbers. Rather, it is the ability to interpret the numbers and communicate the information contained therein effectively. Statistics simply help to tell a story. They may be presented in different ways, such as tables, graphs, maps or text, but they are not scary or boring if you know what they mean.

Increased use of statistics does not automatically lead to an increased understanding of statistics. In this information-rich age, it is important for individuals to be independent, critical thinkers, and statistical literacy is fundamental to achieving this. Be sceptical. Consider what spin may have been put on the data. What has really been said and what has been left out? Be aware. Ignoring definitions or comparing statistics inappropriately can result in misinterpretation of the data.

Back to top

Statistical literacy criteria

To be statistically literate, there are four critical areas in which you need to build skills:

1. Data awareness

Are the data relevant and appropriate?

Data are the basis of statistics. Data are observations, which when organised and evaluated become information or knowledge. The amount of data available can be overwhelming. Interpreting data accurately requires a systematic approach. Think about the questions you need the data to answer. Look behind the data and consider:

- are the data from a reliable/credible source?
- are the data truly representative?
- why have the data been presented in this way and what other data might be needed to fully answer a question or describe a situation?

An important aspect of statistical literacy is understanding what makes data trustworthy and reliable. Understanding how data are produced ensures that informed judgements can be made about the quality of the data.

Where did the data come from?

Data can come from a variety of sources. Beware of:

- **Pre-existing data**

These may have been produced for a specific purpose. The population that the data are based on may differ from the population now under scrutiny, or the sampling method may not

necessarily be appropriate for the current study.

- **Secondary data**

These may have been used in a selective way to suit the purpose of a particular study or report. As such, it may not be a reliable data source or be presenting the data in a manner consistent with the intent of the original data. As a general rule, consult the original or primary data source wherever possible.

- **Data generated from observation and/or experimentation**

The type of questions asked and the manner in which they are asked can influence the answers received. Data can be collected from a population as a whole or from a sample, from which conclusions can be drawn about the broader population. Types of sampling can vary, but the main thing to keep in mind is that any sample should be representative of the population. If there are limitations with the sampling procedure, it is important that these limitations are acknowledged because they can influence the validity and reliability of the results.

> **Example**
> In a street poll the people used in a sample are generally chosen because they are readily available and willing to participate. As a result, bias may be introduced because the sample is not truly representative of the population and the survey findings may be misleading.

- **Anecdotal evidence**

This often relates to a specific event and is generally not representative. While it may be useful when describing a particular case study, care should be taken when making conclusions about the broader population.

- **Biased data**

Bias can be deliberately or inadvertently introduced into survey samples. Sources of bias include:

- sample bias (was the size of the sample appropriate and how were the respondents selected?)
- response errors (people may misinterpret the questions and not give accurate answers)
- missing data (people may not respond at all or give incomplete information)
- responses may be influenced by the wording of the questions
- responses may be influenced by the interviewer
- groups with a vested interest may generate data that are biased towards their organisation's position, while data found to contradict that position may not necessarily be forthcoming.

How were the data collected?

There are three main forms of data collection:

- **Self-enumeration**

People fill in their own forms and can complete them in their own time. This collection method may place limitations on the number and complexity of questions that can be asked, while responses may lack detail or accuracy. The Census is an example of self-enumeration.

- **Interview based surveys**

An interviewer contacts the selected survey participant either in person or via telephone. This

collection method generally results in higher response rates, but also introduces the risk of interviewer bias. More questions and more complex questions can be asked, with more accurate and more detailed responses usually given.

- **Administrative by-product**

Data are available through administrative records generated from the administrative transactions carried out by government departments, agencies and businesses, such as birth and death statistics, and overseas arrivals and departures. Making use of this type of data helps to keep the number of surveys and censuses to a minimum, which in turn is more cost effective. However, bear in mind that the information has been collected for a different purpose and is often restricted to a set of items which are administratively determined. Comparability problems may arise when comparing data from different sources.

Are the data fit for purpose?

To make informed use of data, users need to understand what the data show, how the data should be interpreted, what pitfalls may arise when interpreting the data, and any limitations of the data. Consider the following to determine if the data are fit for purpose:

- What was the intended purpose of the collection results?
- Is the information representative of the total population?
- How high are the relative standard errors? Can the data be considered reliable if the relative standard error is high?
- How recent are the data? Is this the latest information available?
- Are you looking for a snapshot or a trend over time?
- Are other data sources available for comparisons? Are the datasets comparable?
- What metadata (eg. quality statements or explanatory notes) sits around the data? Most ABS products have an Explanatory Notes tab containing useful information on scope, concepts and definitions, survey design and estimation.

Back to top

2. The ability to understand statistical concepts

Basic forms of statistical representation

- tables
- graphs
- maps

Different types of proportions

- percentages
- ratios
- rates

More complex statistical concepts

- difference between median, mean and mode
- difference between original, trend and seasonally adjusted data
- difference between census and surveys

Some of these terms are discussed in Section 3 of this article. For further explanation of terms

see Statistical Language! (cat. no. 1332.0.55.002).

Back to top

3. The ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information

Organise data, construct and display graphs and tables and work with different representations of the data

To be statistically literate, one must understand that how data are organised can contribute to how they are interpreted. Tables and graphs are commonly used to present results. **Tables** provide greater detail, showing the actual values, whereas **graphs** are more useful in showing relationships, concentrating on the form, shape and movement of the data. Graphs are particularly useful in representing change over a period of time.

Describe and summarise basic data

There is an extensive amount of data available. It can sometimes be difficult to get to the information you need. Careful analysis is a vital step in exposing the important story contained in the data. Poor quality analysis can lead to incorrect and inappropriate conclusions being drawn. Therefore, it is important to be vigilant. Be sure to:

- gain an understanding of the topic and the associated data
- be critical of the data you are using
- investigate carefully before being satisfied that you have painted a true and accurate picture

Background knowledge helps to build up an expectation of what the data should look like, but beware of the constraints that those preconceived expectations could place on the outcome of your analysis. Results that differ from your expectations may sound legitimate alarm bells, but it is equally important to be open to what the data are showing you. Question the results. Investigate further until you are satisfied that you have got an accurate interpretation of the figures. Remember, the data may not necessarily be telling the story you want or expect them to.

Extract, understand and explain data that is presented in a variety of ways

Comparison pitfalls

Be wary when making comparisons. Comparisons cannot be made between 'apples and oranges', only between 'oranges and oranges'. Care must be taken when:

- **Comparing data from different sources**

You need to consider whether the data sets are actually comparable.

> **Example 1**
> Results from the 2006 Census regarding unpaid child care cannot be directly compared with the results of the ABS Child Care Survey because the age of the children who were reported on is different. The Census question referred to care provided for children aged less than 15 years of age in the two weeks prior to the Census, while the Child Care Survey only included children aged less than 13 years during a single reference week.
>
> **Example 2**
> ABS and Centrelink both collect information about unemployed persons, but the data sets

are not comparable. ABS unemployed are defined by activity. That is, they are people who are without work, but have been actively seeking work in the past four weeks, and were available to start work last week. Centrelink unemployed are defined by their eligibility to receive unemployment benefits.

- **Changes have occurred**

Changes can occur to a data set over time, such as changes in classification, geography, sample size, methodology, etc.

Example
New industry classification codes, known as Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), were developed in 2006, replacing the 1993 edition, which was the first version produced. ANZSIC 2006 codes reflect the changes that have occurred in the structure and composition of industry since the previous edition, and enhance international comparability. However, direct comparisons with ANZSIC 1993 cannot be made.

- **Definitions differ**

Definitions may differ depending on the context or the survey. Always check that you have the correct definition and are clear about what you are describing. Make sure you are aware of the data boundaries.

Example
The term 'child' can mean many different things. Depending on the context, a child could be someone:
- aged under 13 years
- aged under 15 years
- aged under 18 years

Check the Explanatory Notes to ascertain the definition of a 'child' used in that particular survey. Be wary of making comparisons with other data sources - be sure to check that you are comparing like age groups.

- **Correlating information**

Correlation does not mean causation. The relationship between data and an event may be purely coincidental, or there may be multiple reasons behind an event taking place, with the data only reflecting one aspect of the relationship.

Example
The increased number of shark attacks along the eastern seaboard of Australia in January 2009 may have corresponded with booming retail sales of sunscreen products. This retail boom just happened to coincide with the peak shark attack period, but the number of attacks is unlikely to be related to the increased use of sunscreen.

- **Results lack variation**

Variation to data is important and almost impossible to remove. Therefore, lack of variation in results over time should be cause for suspicion.

Example

If the unemployment rate remained unchanged over many months, it would be worth further investigation as to why this was the case.

Understand the context

Context is very important. A lot of data will be context dependent and it is important that you have a good grasp of what that context is.

Example 1
Many commentators will use various descriptors to captivate people's imagination. Be careful when assigning labels that you are clear about the group you are describing. Commentators may refer to the 'iGeneration' or 'Internet generation', but what exactly is the 'iGeneration'? Some people will know them as 'Generation Z'. Others will have heard them referred to as 'KIPPERS' (Kids in Parents' Pockets Eroding Retirement Savings). Some people will claim this generation covers the period 1986-2006, while others will argue that they don't come into being until after 1991. Be aware that different definitions exist.

Example 2
Information that is "cherry picked" to look interesting might mean something entirely different when placed in another context. In trend terms, labour force estimates indicated that Tasmania had the lowest participation rate of all the states and territories in Australia during the 2007-08 financial year. However, in October 2008, Tasmania's participation rate was at a record high (60.9%).

Both claims are equally true, but selective reporting of this data could be misleading. Even reliable statistics can be distorted if only part of the story is told.

Back to top

4. The ability to communicate statistical information and understandings

How are the data reported?

Turning data into information is an essential skill. Communicating statistical information accurately is vital for effective decision making. To ensure integrity, statistical literacy demands that we question how the data are reported and the reliability of conclusions that are drawn. Bad conclusions can still be drawn from good data. Some things to be aware of include:

- **Use of basic summary numbers**

Using basic summary numbers, such as averages, can sometimes be misleading.

Example
If houses in Hobart were advertised for sale at $275,000, $295,000, $300,000, $325,000 and $850,000 respectively, using the mean to calculate the average house price would produce a figure of $409,000. This gives an over-inflated impression of house values in Hobart. In reality, the median value of $300,000 would give a much more accurate picture of average house prices.

- **Use of proportions**

Using proportions can also produce misleading conclusions, especially if the numbers involved are small.

Example
According to reliable crime and justice statistics, from 2005-06 to 2006-07, there was a 50% increase in the number of murders in Tasmania. While this is true, the actual numbers

of murders increased from 4 to 6, not nearly as dramatic an increase as the percentage increase would have us believe.

- **Seasonal variations**

Seasonal variations can influence results.

> **Example**
> Retail sales for March one year may be down the following year. At face value, it may be reasonable to conclude that business returns had suffered. However, it may simply be the effects of Easter shifting from March in the earlier year to April in the later year. To remove the effects of this type of seasonal variation, the ABS uses seasonal adjustment to standardise the data.

Confidentiality of ABS data

Statistical literacy also includes recognition of ethical issues such as confidentiality. All information collected by the ABS is confidential. It is collected under the authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 and carries severe penalties for any person who breaches that confidentiality. In accordance with the Act, no information can be released which enables a person, household or business to be identified.
Tables containing cells with very small counts may potentially result in identifiable information. To avoid releasing identifiable information all tables are subjected to two confidentiality processes before release:

- assessing the size of the table; and
- introduced random error.

If the number of cells is the same as, close to, or exceeds the population size, then the table will not be released. This practice avoids the release of tables containing a large proportion of small cells containing identifiable data.

Introduced random error is a technique that was developed to avoid identification of individuals. Prior to the 2006 Census, the confidentiality technique applied by the ABS was to randomly adjust cells with very small values. For the 2006 Census, a new technique was developed which slightly adjusts all cells to prevent identifiable data being exposed. These adjustments result in small introduced random errors, but do not impair the value of the table as a whole.

Tables which have been randomly adjusted will be internally consistent, however comparisons with other tables containing similar data may show minor discrepancies. This is the case for both customised tables and standard products. These small variations can, for the most part, be ignored.

Back to top

Conclusion

Statistical literacy is essentially the ability to find, access, utilise, understand and communicate the story contained within the data. Sound understanding, interpretation and critical evaluation of statistical information can then contribute to decision making. The importance of statistical literacy in our information-rich society means that it has now become a core competency like

reading and writing.

Statistics infiltrate and influence every aspect of our life, via the media and advertisements, persuading us to agree with a certain point of view or take some kind of action. Therefore it is in every Australian's interest to be statistically literate, to have a good understanding of statistics and the ability to use and interpret them effectively and appropriately.

Back to top

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Back to top